

Thousands come to hear Billy Graham



TORONTO, ONT. — In the midst of an eight-day Crusade in Toronto, evangelist Billy Graham was invited to Ottawa for conversations with Prime Minister Pierre E. Trudeau and was also the guest of the Premier of Ontario, William Davis as Canadians responded to their nation's increasing political ferment with rising spiritual interest.

With national television coverage on more than a dozen Canadian programs, nightly news broadcasts and daily newspaper reports throughout Canada and the United States, nationwide attention was focused on the June 11-18 Metro Toronto Billy Graham Crusade.

In this city where only seven percent of the people are in church Sunday morning, the Crusade began with an overflow crowd in Maple Leaf Gardens, with an additional 8,000 people spilling out into Carlton Street, in front of the Gardens for an impromptu outdoor rally. A few days later, the Crusade meetings were moved to the outdoor Canadian National Exhibition

Stadium, in what city Alderman David Smith called, "a needed spiritual awakening."

Toronto is the economic capital of Canada where one of every two persons is foreign born. During the Crusade, trained counsellors worked in 28 languages to help inquirers who were recording their personal decisions to follow Jesus Christ.

Each evening an average of over 1,150 people responded to the evangelist's invitation to receive Jesus Christ. Noting the number of inquirers in this eight-day Crusade compares to a similar number (7,436) over four weeks in the 1955 Crusade. Billy Graham said, "Canada is receptive to evangelism right now on a scale it hasn't seen in many years. People are hungry, they're reaching out, they're searching."

Commenting on what he saw happening, Rev. Dr. Desmond C. Hunt, Rector of Church of the Messiah, Anglican, said, "There is a great spirit in Toronto. It seems that God is speaking in every corner of the city." And Toronto businessman, Elio Madonia added, "I've lived in Toronto since 1950, and I don't think there has ever been anything like this."

Although one Unitarian minister was quoted in the newspapers as referring to the Crusade message as "theological pornography" and a few fundamentalist Baptists took out an advertisement in the papers against Billy Graham, support for the Crusade extended across denominational lines. The United Church of Canada, divided in some areas over support, had many pastors and church people involved.

United Church minister, Dr. J. Berkley Reynolds, chairman of the Toronto Conference, the largest United Church Conference in Canada, said, "Some United Churches are not with the Crusade, but fewer than there would have been a few years ago. This Crusade will enhance evangelical respectability in the eyes of the liberal community." Rev. John Gladstone, pastor of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, added, "People from churches which didn't support the Crusade, did attend. They will go back to their churches and carry something of the excitement."

In Canada on a visit, the Anglican Bishop of Norwich, England, the Right Reverend Maurice A.P. Wood, said, "As I sat on the platform night after night, I sensed a deep seriousness in the great audiences. The messages seemed to be used by God to meet human need on the deepest level. I believe God by His Spirit has been doing a very deep, lasting work."

People went home from the Crusade meetings singing on buses, groups of people talked about their faith with others on the subways, and one young man after witnessing to a stranger ended up giving him his Bible.

Dr. Paul B. Smith, pastor of Toronto's well-known People's Church said, "There is a real movement of the Spirit of God in Toronto. God has touched this city. I doubt if there is anyone in the city who is not aware of what is going on. They are aware of Jesus Christ. They are aware of the Gospel."

On the closing Sunday of the Crusade, the Crusade budget having been met, the Crusade Committee designated the Sunday offering for Canadian Crusade telecasts and relief of the victims of the devastating tidal wave that swept through the Andhra Pradesh area of India in 1977.

Working along with the evangelist in the Crusade meetings and auxiliary preaching missions were the Canadian Associate Evangelists and team members who have served with Billy Graham for many years. The Crusade meetings were video-taped by a Canadian television company for broadcast throughout North America in a few weeks.

Immediately after the Crusade, Billy Graham and his wife left for a two week holiday at an undisclosed location. In the next few months, the evangelist is scheduled to hold Crusades in Kansas City, Missouri; Oslo, Norway; Stockholm, Sweden; five cities in Poland; and Singapore.

"Mission is vital" says Neehall

by Rhoda Elizabeth Playfair, B.C. correspondent.

VANCOUVER, B.C. — There is no division between the evangelical thrust of the Christian Church and its concern for social justice.

Again and again, Dr. Roy Neehall, speaking at a recent church conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, reiterated this point. Both are part of mission. Both are part of the historical church community.

Dr. Neehall, General Secretary of the Caribbean Conference of Churches, stressed the need for renewal, liberation, and spirituality for mission in the church.

Renewal for mission involves living the Gospel, he said. Referring to Christ's directive to the disciples to launch into the deep and let down their

nets, he pointed out that the context of mission is not the safe seashore. It is the challenging, dangerous depths of the ocean.

Christians are called to leave net mending and fish. "Renewal may well be in our time a matter of life or death for the Christian church," Dr. Neehall said. "It can't be put on a priority list. It can't be postponed."

Essential ingredients for renewal are an unconditional trust in the power of Christ, acceptance of our own weakness, and self-denial.

Liberation for mission necessitates questioning an involvement with structures in order that the church can be part of God's total re-creation process. It involves awareness of biblical roots and a knowledge of where the Church is going. Grounded in eternal, but shaped by external, the Church must be obedient to the living Word in our

time.

The rich can never really proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to the poor, he stressed. "Those who have power must become poor so that in solidarity with the poor they become instruments of liberty."

The fulfillment of mission must take place in the local reality. "It's not the quantity of our activities but what we are in our own situation that determines where we are in the mission of the church."

Basic equipment for mission is the realness of spirituality, Dr. Neehall pointed out; a recognition of the soul, and of the power of prayer.

"If with our individual spirituality we can see the spirituality of the great social struggles of our time, we can facilitate the opening of His love in an evangelistic world."

focus

Priests attack booze

GRAND FALLS, Nfld. (CCP) — The Grand Falls Senate of Priests has issued a call to the government and people of Newfoundland to take positive action to attack the alcohol problem which has reached "epidemic proportions" in this province.

"Alcohol is causing tremendous difficulties for people in all walks of life," the senate said. "Many job hours are lost as a result of drinking; lives are lost in traffic deaths due to drinking; family life is being disrupted to the stage that nine out of 10 problem marriages can point to drinking as the source of trouble."

The priests also noted that teenage drinking problems have reached the level of the 13 and 14-year-olds and urged parishes, communities and individuals to support actively the work of Alcoholics Anonymous, involved in rehabilitating alcoholics.

The priests also called for the raising of the drinking age from 19 to 20, strict enforcement of the age limit in alcohol purchasing, and more education on alcohol abuse.

Anglican Fund over the top

TORONTO (CCP)—The Anglican Church's 1977 Appeal for the North and Overseas has conducted another successful campaign, realizing a total of \$666,820—\$16,820 more than the \$650,000 objective.

Fifteen dioceses increased their contributions to the appeal, and only seven were unable to achieve their quota.

"It is the responses of the dioceses and the involvement of diocesan leadership that has made the appeal successful," said Rev. Ronald Fellows, program information co-ordinator, and national staff person working with the appeal to produce resource materials.

The 1977 appeal objective for overseas work was \$222,000; for the north, \$395,000.

SPECIAL FOCUS ON SYNOD

Synod of the Christian Reformed Church met from June 12 to June 22 at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Calvinist Contact editor Keith Knight attended the sessions as elder delegate for Classis Hamilton.

Stories on the work of Synod appear in this issue in a special section from pages 7 through 12. A report in the Dutch language appears on page 15.

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Next week:

Sod turning for Home

Viewpoint

Rich in faith and doctrine

It was good to take part in the joint meetings of five synods in Grand Rapids recently and to experience the pulse of the church. It was great to realize that we are not alone in maintaining our Reformed heritage but that there are several other Reformed churches who share the same faith and conviction with equal vigor.

We as members of the Reformation ought to be proud of our heritage. We Dutch-Canadians and Dutch-Americans tend to be a critical lot. We look at our respective denominations with uncertain eyes and it seems as though we enjoy criticizing ourselves. We say that we should be a bit more this or a little less that.

We become fussy when it comes to sermons and ministers and liturgies. We enjoy being critical of fellow believers and love cutting up our own church. Church members might be cold or rude, arrogant or snobbish.

Enough of that negative talk. We in the Reformed faith have been richly blessed and we shouldn't forget it. We should not be afraid to look into the mirror of faith and say: "We really have something here."

The Reformed faith is rich. The Heidelberg Catechism is rich. The Belgic Confession and the Canons of Dort are rich. The Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed and Athanasian Creed are rich. We experience God's faithfulness through the sacraments of Lord's Supper and Baptism.

We have ministers who faithfully bring the Word of God, we have lay people who let the light of Christ shine in our Christian schools. We have missionaries and volunteers who bring a Word and Deed ministry to thousands of people each year. God has blessed our families and our homes, our church and school buildings, our colleges and seminaries, our businesses and kitchens.

And the most beautiful part about it all is that we are not alone. It is not just our own little church down the road, but there are neighboring churches, there is the entire denomination, there are several other Reformed denominations. Hundreds of thousands of men and women, boys and girls, confess the same Christ as you do and recite the same creeds as you do on Sundays. They sing the same songs and hear the same Word of God proclaimed in the same Reformed manner.

We often feel lonely in our little community, often hundreds of miles from another Reformed church. Isolation is discouraging. We often feel all alone against the world and, in those moments, our lives and our little church seems so insignificant. But we are rich. We have so much and we shouldn't forget it.

When you look at the Reformed witness in the world, you see that much is happening. Sure, it is by denominational agencies or organizations but we are part of it. It is amazing to think that the Word which we hear so critically on Sundays can be received with eager eyes and hearts in Mexico or Africa or South America.

We can be so concerned about the faulty air conditioner in church or about Johnny's unpolished shoes while, thousands of miles away, God's people meet in the sweltering heat after walking a dozen miles on a mountain trail.

We are rich in doctrine. Whether we are Christian Reformed, Canadian Reformed, Reformed, Netherlands Reformed, Free Christian Reformed, whatever... we are one in faith and doctrine. And God has looked kindly upon us.

When we look into our Reformed mirror we can see nothing but blessings. We should think about them sometime.

Keith Knight

by Keith Knight

NewsViews

An election that was illegal

With the prospects of a federal election looming overhead for the past six months and for the next year, there is some comfort in knowing that municipal elections, at least in Ontario, are held every two years.

We know, for example that municipal elections will be held across the province in November. We can plan on it and many leaders in small communities are already engaged in some form of campaigning.

But things haven't been running that smoothly in Georgina Township on the south shore of Lake Simcoe north of Toronto. Recently, a County Court judge ruled that the last municipal election which was held in December, 1976, was conducted illegally. As a result, the mayor and seven council members were thrown out of office.

The court decision came after it was discovered that some of the votes had been tampered with and that it infringed on the rights of the citizens. It all dates back to December, 1976, when the election was held for mayor and councillors for the township. As a result of the vote, George Burrows just narrowly was voted in as mayor.

A number of citizens in this rural-resort area were convinced that there was something seriously wrong in the manner in which the election was held. They called for the resignation of all the men and wanted another election.

The council was enraged that their integrity should be called into question and, as a result, the citizens and the council went to court. The decision was handed down by the County Court judge early in July which effectively

wiped out the existing council.

Georgina Township now has no municipal leadership. One of two things might happen. The province might appoint a few administrators to keep the township together until the next municipal election in November, or the election may be called a few months early so that the people can vote in responsible leadership.

It all points to one important fact: when citizens smell corruption, they can legally succeed in getting rid of it. You can fight city hall.

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Growth in the Lord

by Dr. Jack Fennema

Christian education acknowledges God as the Purpose.

Within education that is Christian, God is acknowledged as the Source, God is acknowledged as the Sustainer, and God, thirdly, is acknowledged as the Purpose. To Him are all things and to Him be glory forever. The *Westminster Larger Catechism* states in its first question and answer:

Q. What is the chief and highest end of man?

A. Man's chief, and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.

There is little doubt that Christians are mandated to "do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 6:20)." But answers must be provided for the questions: How does one bring glory to God? What does one do? That ultimate goal of the Christian community must be translated into concrete objectives, activities that do in fact bring glory to God. And one must determine the activities that are unique to the Christian school in contrast to the activities that are unique to the Christian church, the Christian hospital, the Christian home or other-Christian institutions.

Although each is based on common biblical principles, and the ultimate purpose of each is to bring glory to God, the nature and task of each of these institutions is different from the other. The nature of the Christian school is educational; the task of the Christian school is to provide that aspect of Christian nurture which is of a more formal, structured, and analytical variety. Its ultimate purpose is to provide education that will bring glory to God.

The Christian school accepts as its task an educational "Ministry of reconciliation." It educationally ministers to

God's children who in turn are prepared for a "ministry of reconciliation" within their own life callings. This "ministry" is described in 2 Corinthians 5: 17-19: "If any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

The "ministry of reconciliation" for the sake of analysis, can be divided into four dimensions, all of which are interrelated. The latter three are also dependent on the first one listed. Education that is Christian seeks the reconciliation of the child with God; reconciliation of the child with himself; reconciliation of the child with others; reconciliation of the child with the world.

Reconciliation means that the child is restored to a proper relationship. Each child, although an individual, is also one who has been placed into relationships. He, thus, can and should be viewed as an individual, but he cannot be individualistic. He has responsibilities towards all with whom he is in relationship.

The task of the Christian school is the educational ministry of reconciliation. Children are to be restored to proper relationship, first and foremost, with God, and then with themselves, others, and the world. This restoration involves the understanding of one's responsibilities within these relationships and the acting on that understanding. All of this is to be done within an educational framework.

LETTERS

Omission in first article about South Africa

Dear Sir:

I appreciate your willingness to publish the text of Rev. St J.P.T. Ndara's Calvin Lecture (Grand Rapids, Michigan, 30 March 1978), "What it means to be 'reformed' in South Africa". Because of my own responsibility in supplying the typescript to Calvinist Contact, I ask you to inform your readers of two points omitted from the June 2, 1978 publication.

The first point is that the "article written by Rev. Ndara" was edited by Rev. Ndara for publication after presentation as a public lecture in Grand Rapids under the auspices of the Calvin Lecture Council. This fact should be noted not only as a courtesy to the Council but also as an explanation for the

reference to "here in the States" in the third paragraph of the printed text.

The second point is much more substantial and, indeed, somewhat disturbing to me.

Except for three sentences in the second last paragraph beginning "the various 'English' denominations..." the entire text of the lecture was printed without abridgment or deletion. I submit that the deleted examples of "strong signs of reformation according to the Scriptures" in these 'English' denominations are of special interest to Calvinist Contact readers and should now be printed. In my judgement the three deleted sentences are the most important sentences in the text and the most challenging to our understanding of "What It Means to

Be 'Reformed' in South Africa":

"The Anglicans are most forthright in providing leadership to speak against the heresy of apartheid and in holding interracial worship services in urban centres. But as things stand now, the Roman Catholic Church might be judged the only denomination which could claim the name 'Reformed' in a positive sense with regard to the Biblical teaching on race relations. For besides speaking boldly and holding interracial worship services, the Roman Catholic Church moved decisively last year in their uncompromising act of civil disobedience which opened their schools to all races."

James La Grand, Jr.,
Halifax, N.S.

Smokers are getting younger

Dear Sir:

Smokers are getting younger!

In spite of the warning printed on every package of cigarettes, more children and teenagers than ever before are becoming addicted to smoking! Do you not wonder why?

Inhaling smoke is not natural for human beings. People must harden themselves against the nasty taste and the horrid smell of smoke in order to enjoy it. In the United States, the Surgeon General has flatly stated that inhalation of tobacco smoke is likely to produce cancer of the lungs. Other serious diseases and disorders are also caused or aggravated by smoking. So why in the world do young people take up the habit?

I believe the answer is

pressure!

Pressure from advertisements. It is impossible for tobacco to be glorified daily before the eyes of children and young people without having a tremendous impact upon their young minds. Youth has always been the age of experimentation. Due to the publicity and glamor of cigarettes in the fingers of a charming young lady or handsome young man, it is only natural, that young people want to find out for themselves what makes them so delightful and satisfying. The attractive advertisements blind them to the serious results.

Pressure from influence. This truly constraining force is thrust upon the young people not only by an adult society but also by their own age groups. Statistics show that

more school children smoke today than ever before. Pressure usually springs from their school chums. The teenager decides to smoke in order "to belong" and to "grow up". He is willing to cough, to stain his teeth, to pollute his lungs, and to flatten his wallet to prove, "he is a man." In years to come he will probably try to stop to prove the same thing.

Young person, if you are smoking, I pray that this article will encourage you to stop! Smoking is harmful to your health! Cigarettes do irritate the throat, do shorten one's life, do result in jumpy nerves, do cause ulcers of the stomach, do shorten one's breath, do hinder digestion and do affect the heart! Bid "goodbye" to your ugly habit.

L. Nymeyer
Cambridge, Ont.

Government: a terror to evil

Dear Sir:

I am writing in regard to a letter under the heading "Big government shouldn't ban films" by Dr. T. Plantinga in your June 9 issue.

I am sorry, but I cannot really agree with the reasoning of Dr. Plantinga. The writer tells us that it is not the task of the government to ban films. Neither should we shout "me too" whenever the government does something we happen to agree with. Instead we should be more concerned with individual rights.

We should first of all see our government in the light of Romans 13. In this well known portion of the Bible we are told, that the government is the minister of God. As such it is the government's duty to be a terror to evil. Why then should not the government have the right to censor films and books to stop its evil

influences?

Secondly, it is exactly a very valuable right of the individual to compliment the government when it takes a stand against evil. What Dr. Plantinga calls shouting "me too", "me too" should be loud and clear, so that our government may hear the voice of many Christians everytime a major issue comes up for discussion.

Furthermore, one hears lots about civil liberties lately. Under the cloak of individual rights we were told that seatbelts should not be enforced. That any woman should have the right to have an abortion. That homosexuals should have the right to teach in any public school. That one should have the right to see any film he wants to see and certainly no censorship on pornography. However, we as Christians should always remember that individual rights

always should come second to the commandments of Him by whose power the governments rule.

We as Christians have a never ending task to inform our government of His wishes and to urge our rulers to govern us according to His eternal Will. Mind you, His commandments may be called conservative or Victorian or undemocratic. In many democratic eyes the so-called individual rights to see the film "Pretty Baby" or to read "Penthouse" may be trampled upon. Some people don't like the government to rule so strict and call it a "big brother" government. But should this really be of concern to us? Isn't this God's world and is not all power from Him?

John A.W. Eisen
Renfrew, Ont.

Letters or testimonies?

Letters to the editor form an important part of Calvinist Contact each week. It gives the opportunity to speak your mind about issues and to respond to articles which have already appeared.

In the past few months we have been receiving an increasing number of letters which read more like personal testimonies of faith rather than discussions relevant to Christian living.

Letters to the editor form an important part of Calvinist Contact each week. It gives the opportunity to speak your mind about issues and to respond to articles which have already appeared.

We simply cannot begin to start publishing these personal testimonies because we would soon run out of room to print anything else.

Your reactions to articles in the form of letters to the editor is welcome. Please keep them brief, to the point, and always Christian in character.

YES trains teachers

Dear Sir:

There was recently an article by Rev. Morris Greidanus concerning the training of church leaders. He did not mention that there are similar courses offered by Youth Evangelism Services (YES) in Ontario. In fact, we have been teaching teachers for many years. In 1977, there were 45 seminars given, with topics including Essential Skills for Good Teaching, Discipline and Programming.

We have several qualified instructors who are willing to give either evening or all day

sessions geared for all the youth leaders (Calvinettes, Cadets, Sunflower, Boys Alive, VBS).

For further information concerning the courses available, please contact our office at 1008 Bathurst St., Toronto M5R 3G7. Phone (416) 535-6262.

For an all-day training and sharing session, remember our annual Conference is scheduled for Sept. 9 (see "Calendar of Events").

Riekke Kramer
Correspondence Secretary
YES Toronto, Ont.

Church in Quebec

Dear Sir:

A proposed interdenominational project entitled "Implications of Events in Quebec for the Church and our Future as a Society" is under way, spearheaded by the Council of the CRC in Canada's committee for government contact.

We need ideas and input from Reformed Christians in Canada, especially as it relates to these areas: the church's peculiar responsibility in Que-

bec; the Christian political responsibilities in Quebec; whether the Council's committee should become involved in further action; and the main issues to which the church should relate.

Comments from your readers would be appreciated.

Consultation,
c/o Rev. J. deVries
5079 Fraser
Pierrefonds, Que.
H8Z 2S4

Concern for body

Dear Sir:

This letter concerns the article "Burial or Cremation?" Please take note of the following observations. First, only random aspects of the Mosaic Law and the patriarchal tradition have been arbitrarily assigned to the lives of contemporary Christians and the vast bulk of rituals are simply ignored. Why? Second, fire is pictured as a symbol of curse and destruction. What about its Biblical symbols of purification and the presence of the Holy Spirit? Third, it is stated that there will be no fabrication of bodies at the physical resurrection. Where did the author find this information?

The Bible does not present concrete information on the state of our appearance after the physical resurrection; any assumptions on our part must remain assumptions and not definite statements. Fourth, there is no indication in Scripture that burial rites have significance on either salvation or resurrection. Surely God is more interested in the living out of our lives rather than in the symbolism of human rituals! God is more

than capable of raising bodies from destruction by either decay or burning; in either case destruction is complete.

It is far more important to worry about the treatment we give our bodies while we live. It is unfortunate that there seems to be a deep-rooted aversion within Christian circles to the care and appearance of our bodies. It is common to see the gradual deterioration of otherwise potentially healthy bodies by smoking, indulgence in alcohol, drug abuse (both prescription and over-the-counter), lack of exercise, consumption of harmful sugars and fats, the improper use of cosmetics and so-called beauty aids — to name just a few destructive health habits.

By the time middle age is reached in our culture a host of health problems surface not because they are inevitable as is commonly believed but because of careless health practices. Such abuse of our bodies should be of greater concern to Christians than worrying about the disposal of our bodies at death.

Aaltje Huitink Moes
Seelbach, West Germany

Church Page

Church News

New congregation in Leduc

On June 15, 1978 the Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church of Leduc, Alberta was organized with 32 families consisting of 64 communicant members and 64 baptized children, and 3 single communicant members. Rev. J. Boonstra lead the meeting and service while Rev. R. Stienstra preached the sermon. Delegates from all Edmonton churches were present to give their words of welcome and God's blessing.

On April 12, 1978 Classis Alberta North had met and had given its approval for a church twenty miles south of the city of Edmonton, Alta. Now, two months later, we are having regular worship services in the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Leduc at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Cor Hofstra was elected Vice-President and Mr. Bill Kamphuis was elected Clerk. Mr. Marty Ketel was elected Secretary of Deacons. Our mailing address is: Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church, Box 846, Leduc, Alberta. Our Treasurer is Mr. George Debbink.

We praise the Lord for all His blessings upon this congregation.

Rev. J. Boonstra of Ottewell Christian Reformed Church in Edmonton is our councillor. The Lord willing, we hope to call a minister in the very near future.

W.Kamphuis

A new church in Kincardine

The Christian Reformed Church has been established in Kincardine, Ontario. The organization of this new church was celebrated in an evening service in the Knox Presbyterian Church

in Kincardine on June 11, 1978. Cora Bakker made joyous music on the pipe organ. The mother congregation of Lucknow was present when Rev. L. Van Staaldin led us in giving praise and thanksgiving to God for making this possible.

During the service elders and deacons were installed into office. The choir "The Joyful Voices" of Lucknow participated by singing "O Be Joyful in the Lord" and "Trust and Obey".

Rev. Van Staaldin spoke about "Blessings" using as his text Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ, with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places."

The Christian Reformed Church of Kincardine continues to grow. We now have 24 families and 3 single members. There is great potential for further growth as construction and operations at the Bruce Nuclear Power Development is carried on.

Kincardine is a rapidly growing community with a busy tourist season due to its picturesque location along the shore of Lake Huron. It is a good place to live, work and play and a place where we can serve the Lord with gladness.

Worship services are held every Sunday at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall on Queen Street.

We pray that the church here forever may be, The praise of His glory, till glory we see; May this free glorious grace, His wisdom and light, Be blessings He pours forth in unbounded might.

Keith Dorey

Calgary honours Rev. Visscher with a stetson

During the past seven months (Nov.-May) the Maranatha Christian Reformed Church in Calgary, Alberta had the privilege of having Rev. Bernard E. Visscher as a temporary pastor during a vacancy. Rev. Visscher responded to our call for a "stated supply" by travelling all the way from Alamosa, Colorado.

Throughout his period of service in Calgary, it was clearly evident that the Lord has blest him with many years of fruitful labor in His vineyard. He preached the Word with clarity and conviction, visited the sick and lonely, taught catechism and attended many meetings. His keen sense of humor and many years of experience were sincerely appreciated by the congregation.

During an evening dedicated to honoring Rev. Visscher and the work he had done, the congregation expressed their appreciation by presentations, singing and skits. The evening was filled with laughter, well wishes and praise to the Lord for providing Rev. Visscher as His servant. One of the highest honors Calgarians bestow on their true friends is a gift of a traditional western stetson hat. Rev. Visscher was presented with such a hat as a sign of true friendship and respect.

We wish Rev. Visscher God's richest blessing in Alamosa. May you thoroughly enjoy your family, your golf game, your fishing trips and your friends.

George Fernhout
Maranatha CRC

CHRISTIAN REFORMED

Called

-to Peterborough, Ont., Rev. John Zantingh of Dundas, Ont.
-to Prince George, B.C., Rev. C.C. Spoor of New Westminster, B.C.
-to Delta, B.C., Rev. Peter Van Egmond of Abbotsford (First), B.C.

Accepted

-to Calgary (Emmanuel), Alta., for northeast mission, Rev. Kenneth Verhulst of Toronto (Light-house), Ont.
-to Regina, Sask., for Indian ministry, Rev. Harry Kuperus of Kentville, N.S.
-to Salem, Oregon, Rev. J.S. Mantel of Nobleford, Alta.
-to Calgary (Maranatha), Alta., Dr. J.S. Hielema of The Netherlands
-to Burlington, Ont., as executive secretary of the Council of Christian Reformed Churches in Canada, as associate minister, Rev. Arie Van Eek of Winnipeg (Kildonan), Man.

Declined

-to Wyoming, Ont., Rev. John Zantingh of Dundas, Ont.
-to Goderich, Ont., Rev. N.B. Knoppers of Red Deer, Alta.
-to Drayton, Ont., Rev. Harry Kwantes of Wyoming, Mich.
-to Toronto (Second), Ont., Rev. J.W. Jongsma of Mount Hamilton, Ont.
-to Thunder Bay (Bethlehem), Ont., Rev. Evert Gritter, campus chaplain at Hamilton, Ont.

New clerk

Bowmanville (Maranatha), Ont. — Mr. G. Hartimink, R.R. #2, Newcastle, Ont. L0A 1H0.

Aylmer services

The Aylmer, Ont. CRC has changed the time of worship to 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., effective until Sept. 1, and on every third Sunday of the month there will be a Dutch language service at 2:30 p.m.

New congregations

-Sunday, June 11, a new church was organized at Kincardine, Ont.

-according to Home Mission news a new church is organized at Meadowvale, Ont., where Rev. H. Lunshof is the Home Missionary.

New Building

The Home Mission church of Windsor, Ont. received approval at the last classis meeting (Chatham) to build a new church on the property where the new parsonage is erected.

New address

-Rev. Nico Peters, R.R. #1, Poplar Side Rd., Collingwood, Ont. L9Y 3Y9. Phone: 705-445-3718.

CANADIAN REFORMED

Called

-to Winnipeg, Man, Rev. C. Stam of Burlington (West), Ont.

Accepted

-to Burlington (East), Ont., Rev. M. van Beveren of New Westminster, B.C.

PASTORAL PONDERING

Hezekiah and christian education

You all know the story of Hezekiah when Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, came to fight against Jerusalem. Sennacherib sent his messengers to Hezekiah with a letter stating: "Don't let this God you trust in fool you by promising that Jerusalem will not be captured by the King of Assyria." And you know, as soon as King Hezekiah had read this letter, he went over to the temple and spread the letter out before the Lord, and prayed.

When you read that prayer in Isaiah 37, you will agree with me it is a moving prayer. Hezekiah pleads with his God for a positive answer. He says: Save us so that all the kingdoms of the earth will know that you are God, and you alone.

Hezekiah received a letter, and he did not know immediately what to answer. He did not disregard that letter because of that, but he placed that letter before the Lord, and prayed. He asked: Lord, how must I answer this letter? Help me to answer it in harmony with Thy will.

It is not always so easy to answer in the different circumstances of our lives. In the past many of us have received a letter from the schoolboard. That letter contained also a registration form. You were requested to register your child as a student of the Christian School. Or if you did not have any children to enroll in this school, you were requested to become a member of the school society.

My question is: what did you do with that letter? It was perhaps very difficult for you to answer that letter, because Christian school education costs money. The whole budget must be paid by the parents and other friends of Christian school education. And that is not a small thing.

However, I hope you did not disregard the letter for that reason. I hope you put it before the Lord, and prayed: "Lord, You know I like to have my children educated at our Christian school, but You know also that I am not able to pay it. Please, give me light, and help me to enroll them, because that is the only right thing to do."

I know the Lord is busy giving you an answer. And if you did not put the letter before the Lord, and did not pray about it, don't you think it is high time — and there is still time until September — to do it. Ask the Lord for His answer.

J. Van Harmelen
Woodstock, Ont.

Conference on

Justice in the International Economic Order

Calvin College, August 13 to 19

You are invited to an International Conference on The Responsibility of Christian Institutions of Higher Education to Justice in the International Economic Order at Calvin College, August 13 to 19.

Registration fee, including housing, meals and materials, is \$100. If you wish to attend a single lecture, you are invited for the nominal registration fee of \$1. All meetings take place in the Gezon Auditorium. For information write to Dr. Nicholas Wolterstorff, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

PROGRAM

Sunday, August 13, 8:00 p.m.
Opening Worship Service
Rev. Sidney Rooy will deliver the sermon.

Monday, August 14, 9:00 a.m.
Kingdom, Church World
Prof. Herman Ridderbos,
Theologische Hogeschool, Netherlands

Monday, August 14, 1:30 p.m.
School in Society
Prof. Elaine Botha
University of Potchefstroom, S. Africa

Tuesday, August 15, 9:00 a.m.
Theory and Praxis
Prof. Nicholas Wolterstorff
Calvin College, U.S.A.

Tuesday, August 15, 1:30 p.m.
God's Call for Justice
Tjaart vander Walt, Rector
University of Potchefstroom, S. Africa

Wednesday, August 16, 9:00 a.m.
Justice and Injustice
Prof. Wouter Tims
Free University, Netherlands

Thursday, August 17, 9:00 a.m.
The Economic Systems
Prof. Anthony Cramp
Cambridge University, England

Thursday, August 17, 1:30 p.m.
Economic Justice and the Future
Prof. C.M.E. Leistner
Africa Institute, S. Africa

Friday, August 18, 9:00 a.m.
Norms for the Int'l Economic Order
Prof. Bob Goudzwaard
Prof. John van Baars
Free University, Netherlands

Friday, August 18, 1:30 p.m.
Strategies for Change/Preservation
Prof. George Monsma
Calvin College, U.S.A.

Saturday, August 19, 9:00 a.m.
The Role of our Institutions
President Diekema
Calvin College, U.S.A.

President Oh
Korea College, Korea

President Sutarno
Satya Wacana, Indonesia

Rector van der Walt
Potchefstroom University, S. Africa

"Jubilee for Justice" scheduled for August 25-28

SIOUX CENTER, IOWA-

There's a conference coming up at the end of the summer for those who are concerned about the Christian witness in the area of politics.

On August 25-28, Christians from across the U.S. and Canada will be coming to Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, for the second International Christian Political Conference.

"Jubilee for Justice" is designed as an educational conference for Christian citizens who desire to see justice in the world around them. It will be a time of sharing for those who believe that the Kingship of Jesus Christ must affect politics.

The Association for Public Justice (APJ) is sponsoring the weekend event. The organization was formerly called the National Association for Christian Political Action.

U.S. Senator Wendell Anderson of Minnesota, the former governor of the state, will serve as the conference keynote speaker at the Friday evening banquet. Dr. Joel Nederhood, director of the Back to God Hour, Palos Heights, Ill., will deliver the message "God's Will and America's Destiny" for the Sunday afternoon rally.

The conference will begin with a mass meeting on Friday afternoon. Rev. J.B. Hulst, chairman of the national board of APJ, will discuss the Biblical demands for a political witness, seen in terms of justice of all.

After listening to U.S. Senator Wendell Anderson on Friday evening, the conferees will again join on Saturday morning for a mass meeting, followed by two rounds of seminars.

The Saturday morning seminars will focus on "The Response of God's People in Other Countries," seeing how members in other parts of the world have responded to the Biblical demand for justice.

Speakers include: Dr. Jan D. Dengerink, professor of Calvinistic philosophy, University of Utrecht and University of Groningen, The Netherlands, "Justice and totalitarianism in Europe"; Prof. McKendree R. Langley, visiting lecturer in church history, Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, Miss., "The political spirituality of Abraham Kuyper"; Dr. Paul Schrotenboer, general secretary, The

Reformed Ecumenical Synod, Grand Rapids, Mich., "The World Council of Churches and the social gospel"; Dr. Johan D. van der Vyver, professor in legal philosophy, Potchefstroom University, South Africa, "International standards of human rights protection: A Christian perspective"; Rev. Raymond Weiss, chaplain Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa, "The Middle East: Who and Where are the people of God?"

In the afternoon, the conference will move closer to home with a look at the current political situation in the United States and Canada, a critique of the "context" within which Christians are to work.

Speakers participating in these discussions include: Prof. Eugene Dykema, assistant professor of economics, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Mich., "Christian stewardship of natural resources"; Dr. Harry Groenewold, assistant professor of history, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Ill., "Quebec in Canada: An alternative to separatism?"; Jerry Herber, Ph.D. Candidate, Duke University, Durham, N.C., "The Christian political mind and the political attitudes of local American politicians"; Case Hoogendoorn, attorney and partner in the law firm of Kirkland and Ellis, Chicago, Ill., "The legal enforcement of morals: mandate or misdirection?"; Prof. Stan Vander Kooi, professor of agriculture, Worthington Community College, Worthington, Minn. (and) Dr. Harry Cook, professor of biology, Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa, "A just use of agricultural land"; Elbert van Donkersgoed, executive director, Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, Drayton, Ont., "The family farm".

On Saturday evening, a public agricultural forum will be held. Jim Visser, executive director of the Christian Farmers Federation of Western Canada, will join the discussions on agriculture and justice. He will be speaking on the topic "Jubilee in agriculture." The recently-formed Christian Farmers Association of Iowa will be inviting any interested farmers to this meeting.

Having looked at the response of God's people in other countries, as well as the

American-Canadian situation, the conferees will work towards resolutions, looking at how the Christian community can begin to move ahead as a strong witness in the area of politics.

Ted Malloch, APJ research associate, will speak at breakfast on Monday, sharing his experiences from a recent six-month research project in Washington, D.C.

Dr. James Skillen, APJ Research Director, will conclude the conference on Monday afternoon. He will be explaining a proposal from APJ's national board for the future activity of the association.

Full conference cost for a single person stands at \$60. This includes all meals, meetings and lodging. Full conference cost for a couple is \$90. Students will be able to attend the entire conference for \$45 with a student couple paying \$75.

For further conference information or price breakdown, feel free to write: International Christian Political Conference, Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa 51250.

Chatham schools hold concert



A crowd of over 400 filled the First Christian Reformed Church of Chatham, Ont. to near capacity to hear three choirs of the Chatham Christian schools at their annual choir festival. Betty Nieuwstraten directed the 45-member, Grades 2-4 choir through a medley of songs, while Mr. John Postma lead the senior choir. The Chatham Christian Secondary School choir was directed by Mr. Cal Davies, who also lead the 160-member mass choir of students from Grades 2 through 12. Accord-

ing to Mr. Davies, the choir is completely voluntary at both schools with practices being held at noon hours and "student time", in order not to interfere with scheduled class time. The secondary school choir has previously participated in the Kiwanis Festival in Chatham and the Music Festival in London where it participated in a mass choir of over 400 students made up of student bodies of the nine participating christian secondary schools from various parts of Ontario.

Christian Reformed Conference Grounds 1978 Program Summer Vacation with Purpose on the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan

July 18-21 — PASTORAL WEEK

Rev. Cornelius Schoolland, Speaker
'Precious Bondage'

*Wed. Ladies Day - meetings at 10:00 a.m.
1:30 p.m. - Mrs. Donald Brandt, Speaker -
'Princesses Don't Wear Rags'

Mrs. Carol Ebels, Soloist
Film - (8:00) 'Toby's Treehouse'
Fri. - Randy Wolhuis, Piano, with guest soloists

July 25-29 — PINE REST

Rev. Nick Vander Kwaak, Speaker
'Studies from the Sermon on the Mount'

Wed. - Film - 'Letter From Sue'
Speaker - Dr. James Beukema
Fri. - Herrema Family
*Sat. - Chicken Barbecue 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Counselors Quartet 7:30 p.m.

August 1-5 — BACK TO GOD HOUR

Rev. Eugene Los, Speaker
'The Old Testament Today'

Wed. - Rev. Juan Boonstra, Speaker
'Communicating Christ to Today's Masses'
Fri. - Trio of Praise
Sat. - Film - 'The Cross and the Switchblade'

August 8-12 — TRINITY COLLEGE

Dr. Derke Bergsma, Speaker
'Visions of the Prophet Zachariah'

Wed. - Slide Presentation
Speaker — Dave Larsen
Music - Trinity Students
Fri. - Lucas Brothers and Kraal Sisters
Sat. - Film - 'Barrett'

August 13-18 — WORLD HOME BIBLE LEAGUE

Rev. Alvin Vander Griend, Speaker
'Essentials for Effective Evangelism'

Sun. - Worship Services at 10:30 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Mon.-Thurs. - Meetings nightly
Fri. - Musical Seinsens

August 22-26 — PASTORAL WEEK

Rev. Henry Boekhoven, Speaker
'The Church Today'

Wed. - Film - 'Hidden Island'
Fri. - Melody Six
Sat. - Film - 'Eighteen'

August 29 - September 2 — YOUTH WEEK

Teens: Rev. Calvin Bremer, Speaker
Adults: Mr. Ken Navis, Speaker
'Guide to Victorious Living'

Wed. - Ebenezer
Fri. - Power Company
Sat. - Film - 'Night Song'

September 3

Worship Services 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. -
Dr. Paul Bremer

*September 4, 1978 — LABOR DAY

2:30 - Sherwood Singers
7:30 p.m. - Robert Brouwer Travelogue
'Canada's Many Faces'

*SPECIAL DAYS

Bible Hour Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. All evening meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. unless stated differently. Vesper Service each Sunday in July and August at 5:00 p.m.

Cottages Available - Campsites for Travel
Trailers, Campers and Tents
Hiking - Picnic Areas - Swimming
Campfires - Christian Fellowship
Sports-Laundry Facilities

FOR INFORMATION
CONTACT CONFERENCE DIRECTORS AT
12253 LAKESHORE DR.,
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN 49417
PHONE 616-842-4478



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Home for the Aged to build in fall

The Classis Hamilton Home for the Aged, scheduled to be built in Grimsby, Ont., at a cost of \$1 million, was formally given the green light at a membership meeting on June 20.

The membership of the incorporated body, which consists of all the deacons within the classis, voted 95 per cent in favor of starting construction 'as soon as possible.'

The Niagara Deaconal Conference and the local deacons, together with the board, will renew their efforts to collect donations from families within their respective churches.

Construction is expected to start in September with most of the outside work scheduled to be completed by winter, according to board member Rita Otten.

The fund-raising campaign to gather \$1 million is well under way and some \$225,000 has been raised to date. The home is looking for an average of \$500 per family.

Board members are continuing in their negotiations with government officials in an attempt to gain government funding but grants are reported to be 'tight' for the next couple of years.

The home for the aged is designed for people who will require some nursing care. An administrator is expected to be appointed soon so that the home will be able to function more efficiently.

Thoughts in the golden years

Memories
do hurt
when we
see ourselves
as God
wants us to be.

Memories
turn
into praises
when
afterwards,
we see
our Father's
piloting.

Praises
to Him alone
too intimate
to share
with others.

A.M.D. de Vries

Support our Community Project. Christian Care for the Elderly. Holland Christian Homes Inc. Owned and operated by its members, Annual M.F. \$25.00 per Family, or \$250.00 for life. P.O. Box 4127, Stat. D., Hamilton, Ont. L8V 4L5 or write to the Secretary, D. Brinkman, R.R. #1, Bowmanville, Ont. L1C 3K2. Applications for accommodation to be sent to Box 333, Brampton, Ont. L6V 9Z9.

by Rev. Ralph Heynen

PASTORAL COUNSELLING

When you read the Bible, you may see a text that has been there all the time, but suddenly, it speaks to you. I was reading Paul's letter to Timothy, the first letter in Chapter 5:8. I found these words, "If anyone does not provide for his own relatives, and especially for his own family, he has disowned the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." Paul is writing to widows and tells them how they ought to live and also how the church ought to provide for widows.

These words speak in a wider sense to the entire family. Caring for our families is a spiritual responsibility, a sacred obligation. It is one of the greatest obligations that we have in life. Providing for a family means more than getting a house, food, clothing, taking care and giving protection to loved ones. The way we provide for them may well reflect the emotional and spiritual provisions that we make. A family can live on the edge of poverty and still be a loving and caring family, a family in which the child has the pattern of living that is expected in a Christian home.

There are other elements that go into this matter of providing for our own. These are kinds of provisions that we dare not neglect lest we be worst than an unbeliever. They form part of the spiritual obligation that we have in life. The family needs an atmosphere in which love is practiced and stressed. The world about us has much hostility, hatred and competition. There is really only one place where a child can learn genuine love. So much that is taught about love today stresses the physical factors and the sexual factors, but even though they are important for us, these things are not primary. Love means much more than that. It means a deep love and it is the kind of love which you think of when you say, "A child has a deep need both to love and be loved."

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Life isn't always what it seems to be. We sometimes see the dark side because we are wearing dark glasses and everything looks gloomy. Then again we look through rosy glasses and everything is optimistic. We have to learn to see life as it is and see it, above all, in our relationship with God through the eyes of faith.

The warm heartbeat of love between parents, husbands and wives, and the love that is reflected to the children; the love of children towards parents; the love that is shown toward others outside of the home — to friends and neighbours, to those who are in need; or the thought that Paul has here of caring for widows — there is need to see and feel this love. You can't teach your child to love. A child can learn from a pattern, from an example. You can show how to love and in this way you can help a child to learn the basic element of loving.

One of the great tragedies of divorce is that children of various ages learn to live with anger, hatred and fighting; then if a husband and wife separate, the rejection of one of the two partners. I know some people get divorces and they say, "We are going to remain friends," but basically it is a form of rejection. Closely allied to the act of learning to love is the art of learning to forgive. Grace has an important place in our homes as well as love. We need to develop the courage to be imperfect. We learn this only when we feel forgiving and when we feel forgiveness, when others are willing to forgive us for our failures.

Providing for our own

A parent needs to have the strength and the power of personality to be able to say, "I'm sorry, I am wrong, I am mistaken and I hope you will forgive me." When a parent asks this of a child, the child can readily also be willing to ask it of his parents because he feels Dad and Mother will also forgive me if I am willing to forgive them. In an imperfect world we must provide our children with this ability to be able to forgive and to lay aside things that have been offensive to us.

I recently saw the movie, "Love Story" which was on television. This young fellow married a girl who had leukemia and gradually fades away. His father had objected to the marriage, he didn't want him to marry her. When the girl died, the father was with his son and said, "I'm sorry" and the son made the statement, "Love means that you never have to say you're sorry." I don't think that is quite true. In our lives we ought to learn to be able to say, "I'm sorry." Other people can respond by saying, "That is all right or I forgive you, or I'm willing to accept your apology." In a family the person also finds out that there is caring.

The family gives most attention to the one who needs the most. Help is automatically given, not to those who are the strongest, but to those who are weak. We give more care to those who are sick than those who are healthy. This is not playing favorites. This is simply teaching the art of providing for those who have needs. I think you find in the family we can go too far with this. There are parents who have a child who has been sick for awhile and they give him extra attention and extra care, but they don't let up afterwards. Pretty soon they have a spoiled youngster on their hands. It means learning through caring.

Another wide variety of provision must be made for the family. We have to learn to teach each other to make choices, be punctual, compromise or fight back, develop good values as far as money is concerned, to learn to laugh, to weep, and play in our leisure hours. These are all self-evident and each sincere parent will do this in his/her own way. Throughout a number of years we can help our children to develop these qualities. The qualities that are given are just simply taught, but they are learned by experience — by loving and by being in an atmosphere where all of these qualities are practiced. We should learn to be content with life.

Providing for the family then also means that we try to help children to learn how to handle both life's adversities and life's prosperity. So many people when they are prosperous, tend to become a little proud. This is reflected in the lives of the children. Children must also learn how to handle sickness, trouble, poverty, and disappointments in life. You only learn these things in the home. We have to provide for our family in all of these qualities. The fact that Paul stresses so strongly is, "This is part of your faith." If you do not provide for your family you are disowning your faith, and not practicing your faith.

A living, practicing faith means that we try to deal with our families in such a way that these are the qualities that they will enjoy. This is not simply a matter of your own strength, cleverness, or your own means of following a textbook, it requires a humble reliance upon God knowing that He will bless our feeble efforts, overrule our mistakes and that He is the one who really builds character in the lives of our children for eternity. Provide care for your own because this is important. Then there is the marvelous comfort that the Father in Heaven also provides for us. He promised that He would do this and He would be going contrary to his own word if He did not provide for you and me. Let's learn to trust Him in that way.



Christian Reformed Church Synod

Women may be ordained as deacons

The day was Wednesday, June 21, 1978. The topic was a report entitled: "Hermeneutical Principles Concerning Women in Ecclesiastical Office." At about 5 p.m. that day, the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church made the following declaration: "That consistories be allowed to ordain qualified women to the office of deacon, provided that their work is distinguished from that of elders."

Women in office. That is something with which the church has struggled through-

"sufficient biblical grounds have not been advanced to warrant a departure from our present practice of excluding women from the ecclesiastical offices recognized in the Church Order."

In 1975 synod appointed a committee to study the hermeneutical principles which are involved in the proper interpretation of the relevant Scripture passages, to apply these principles in an exegetical study of the relevant passages, and to present synod with the results of their

1 Timothy 3:11) indicate that women may serve as deacons." And "the headship principle in which the women (wife) is to be subject to the man (husband) is not violated as long as the office of deacon is expressed in terms of assistance and service."

Synod was careful in adopting its stand on women deacons. The provision that "their work is distinguished from that of elders" proved to be a very strong force.

Majority vote

The decision to allow women to become ordained deacons came by a majority vote. It pointed out that some churches are not yet ready for women deacons while others are quite anxious to make this possible.

The result of the voting reminds one of the problem which the church faced in 1957 when the question was asked: should women be allowed to vote at congregational meetings?

Each consistory had to decide the matter for its own congregation. From that page in history we can learn. There was unity in the church, both in its effort to understand the Scriptures and in its respect for the differing degrees of readiness for a change that Scripture permitted. Yet at the same time that there was unity, there was also diversity.

On this sensitive issue of women in ecclesiastical office, our love for Christ and His church must compel us to put our personal preferences aside, and to believe that the Spirit of truth will lead us into truth and will enable us "to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

As you travel through the history of the church, the man's role in the church is never questioned. Jesus was a man, the disciples were men, the leaders of Israel through the ages were mainly men. It seems as though man's role in the church has been taken for granted almost to the point where it became the man's role to "do religion" while the women sat back.

Women have been looking for their place in Christ's Church for centuries and Paul had some comments to make about them, too, during his ministry. Within the Christian Reformed Church, the question of "women's rights" was already evident in 1914, when it was termed suffrage. In

1947 the woman's rights to take part in congregational meetings came to life and that took ten years to settle ... if you want to call it settled now. The 1960's were surprisingly quiet. Not a word was said (at least, officially) about women in the church. But 1970 heralded its first report on women in office.

The denomination has, for years, sent missionaries around the world to proclaim the Word and administer the sacraments. Among them have been several women. We at home allow women to be sent to Nigeria to preach to the natives and to baptize them but we are threatened when they ask for the same rights at home. There seems to be an inconsistency there.

In any event, women may be ordained as deacons in your church if you are ready for it. May they be blessings for the churches they serve.

It will be up to each local congregation to decide on when it is ready to ordain women as deacons in their church

out the 1970's. In 1973, after receiving a report from its study committee that concluded that "the practice of excluding women from ecclesiastical office cannot be conclusively defended on biblical grounds," synod decided to refer the entire report to the churches for study and reaction.

A new study committee was appointed at that time to receive those reactions and to continue to study the question. In its report to the 1975 Synod, this committee concluded "that biblical teaching is not opposed in principle to the ordination of women to any office that men may hold in the Church."

However, in the light of the majority report of its advisory committee, the 1975 Synod declared that, in its judgment,

study."

A lot of words but it all comes down to this: three study committees have looked at great depth about the Biblical principles for women as elders and deacons, and with all three studies the conclusion has been the same — the Bible is "unclear" when it comes to the role of women as elders and ministers but it seems to be a bit more clear in the case of women as deacons.

Synod, in adopting that recommendation which will allow women to be ordained as deacons, backed up their decision with two main grounds: "There is some evidence in the Bible for opening the office of deacon to women. At least two passages in the New Testament (Romans 16:1 and

Why ordain women?

Why ordain women? Can't the church use their talents without ordaining them? Those questions were asked by several delegates to Synod of the CRC.

One man, a minister, in trying to answer the question, first asked: "Why ordain men? We don't need an ordination to carry out the work of the church." He then mentioned that, through ordination, the church officially recognizes and accepts the special talents given to a person. That comes in the ordination of ministers, elders and deacons.

The congregation, in electing office-bearers, believes that these men have gifts to be elders or deacons and that those gifts are officially recognized in the ordination.

If a woman has special gifts in the work of Christian mercy, the church may now, because of the act of Synod, recognize those gifts by ordaining her as a deacon. It is a special task. That is why we do not ordain Sunday school teachers or Cadet or Calvinette counsellors. That work is important, too, but it is not that special calling of God to the office of elder and deacon.

Church creates fourth office of Evangelist

The Synod of the Christian Reformed Church has approved the establishment of the office of evangelist with authority to administer the Word and Sacraments in the work of evangelism of his calling church.

This significant step came after some 32 years of discussions within the church to define the place of layworkers in evangelism within the structure of the church. Throughout years of study, one thing has been brought into focus repeatedly; the desirability and even the necessity of giving authority to the one who is doing the work of evangelism not only in bringing the Word but also in the administration of the

sacraments.

The study committee recommended that the elder-evangelist must work within the framework of the local consistory. This means that he is answerable to the consistory in his work. How does his "office" fit into the present structure? We presently have elders and deacons within consistory. A minister is an elder and the evangelist will be an elder with the specific task to full time work in evangelism. That is why he will be ordained.

Synod was careful to lay down regulations governing the work of this evangelist. His ordination to the office of evangelist shall not take place

until he has proven his ability to function adequately in the work of evangelism, and he has sustained a classical examination for evangelists.

His term of ordination will correspond to his term of appointment by the local church. His work as elder shall normally be limited to that which pertains to his functions as evangelist. He shall function under the direct supervision of the consistory. He will have to give regular reports to the consistory. His work as evangelist will be limited to that emerging congregation in which he is appointed to labor only until the congregation is organized.

Once the emerging congregation becomes organized,

then his work is finished. If and when he accepts an appointment to another field, he will have to submit to an appropriate classical examination and he will have to be ordained in his new field of labor.

These restrictions were placed on this new office in order that an evangelist does not travel all over the region or country, proclaiming the word and administering the sacraments. He is confined to a specific task under the supervision of a specific consistory.

His examination by a classis will include his knowledge of Scripture, knowledge of Reformed doctrine, knowledge of the standards of the church,

and practical matters concerning Christian testimony, interest in evangelism and promotion of Christ's kingdom.

This ordination and the creation of a fourth office is the result of years of frustration on the part of layworkers in evangelism who worked in their fields, bringing the Word, but when it came to the administration of the sacraments, they had to call in ordained ministers to perform the tasks.

A study committee was also appointed to alter the Church Order in those sections which would create an office of evangelist. Those alterations will be presented to Synod of 1979 for approval.



Christian Reformed Church Synod

Mrs. Rienstra may not preach

When Calvin Seminary held its graduation in May, Marchiene Rienstra was there. No, she wasn't the proud mother of a future minister; she was a graduate of the Seminary and therefore academically ready to proclaim the word.

But women can't preach in our church. We all know that! Mrs. Rienstra knew that. The church of which she was a member (Church of the Servant CRC) knew that. Nevertheless, the Church of the Servant appealed to Synod to "declare Marchiene Rienstra a candidate for the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church." Synod, of course, said no.

Mrs. Marchiene Rienstra is a 36-year-old mother of four children, wife of a physician, daughter of veteran missionaries, and a graduate of Calvin Seminary. She, as well as the consistory of the Church of the Servant, petitioned the faculty of the Seminary to recommend her for candidacy.

Appealing to "the fact that the Christian Reformed Church does not permit the ordination of women", the faculty concluded that "the faculty is not authorized to endorse her application for candidacy in the CRC." The faculty, however, did prepare a statement describing Marchiene Rienstra's qualifications, and summarized it by stating: "With respect to her doctrinal soundness, spiritual fitness and personality, the faculty judges that Marchiene is well qualified for Christian ministry."

Mrs. Rienstra requested that the board of trustees of the seminary through its executive committee, assign her a text so that she could submit the required sermon along with all the other documents required of senior seminarians who seek candidacy. Appealing to the rules of the Church Order, the executive committee denied the request.

Synod declared that the

board of trustees acted properly when it decided that it could not permit Marchiene Rienstra to become a candidate for the ministry and it turned down the request of the Church of the Servant to have her declared a candidate for the ministry.

Synod gave this twofold reason: the church's present understanding of Scripture as reflected in the Church Order does not allow Synod to declare any woman a candidate, and any departure from the church's present position should come about by way of Scriptural study (such as is presently under way), and not by way of appeal to the gifts of an individual apart from the church's understanding of Scripture.

This is the first time that the church was confronted with an actual case in which a fully qualified woman was ready to become a minister and it made the entire matter a bit more real for delegates to Synod.



Marchiene Rienstra, left, and Martheen Griffioen graduated from Calvin Seminary.

Photograph by H.A. Loree Jr.

Stress between ministers and congregations need study

Since 1975, there has been a total of 25 ministers who were released or deposed from office as a result of friction between minister and congregation. That figure appeared in the report of Synod's interim committee and has sparked further study in providing a "healing ministry for crisis situations".

During the past year, the SIC has studied the need of some program to face an increasing number of problems that have arisen in the church with respect to the relationship of some pastors and their congregations.

In 1975 there were five terminations of the ministry in the CRC because of these situations. By the spring of 1978 a total of 25 ministers were no longer serving in their congregations due to releases, depositions or resignations.

Synod approved of the continued research by the interim

committee into the matter of a healing ministry for ministers, consistories, and congregations in situations of stress. This may result in a specially appointed committee of qualified persons to deal with specific instances.

The Ministerial Information Service, which processes minister profiles and is used extensively by vacant churches who are looking for ministers, has also remarked in its report to Synod that "an increasing number of churches and ministers urgently desire a change."

In 1976 the church approved a pastoral exchange concept in which two ministers, with the consent of their respective churches, may exchange churches. This concept has been used in some of these "intolerable situations" but it has not been used too much, according to the Ministerial Information Service.

Quota climbs slightly

Synod of the Christian Reformed Church adopted a per family quota totalling \$250.95 for 1979. That represents about a 7 per cent increase over the 1978 quota of \$232.95.

The causes, with the per family quota in brackets, is as follows: Back to God Hour (\$27), CRC-TV (\$10), Home Missions (\$57.45), The Banner (.50), De Wachter (.50),

Church school curriculum (\$2.50), World Missions (\$52.25), Spanish Literature (\$1), Calvin College and Seminary (\$41.40), Seminary addition (\$1), Chaplain Committee (\$2.25), Denominational services (\$5.20), Denominational building (\$3.65), Fund for Needy Churches (\$13.50), Ministers' Pension Fund (\$30.50), Supplement fund (.75), SCORR (\$1.55).

Plantinga chosen to fill seminary vacancy

Rev. Neal Plantinga of Webster, N.Y. was selected by the Christian Reformed Church Synod as assistant professor of systematic theology at Calvin Seminary. Rev. Plantinga fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Dr. Anthony Hoekema who retired this year.

The 154 delegates to synod interviewed the two candidates for the post, Rev. Plantinga and Dr. Gordon Spykman. Dr. Spykman is presently a professor of religion at Calvin College. The two candidates were each interviewed for an hour before the selection was made. Both men came well-qualified and highly regarded for the post.

Rev. Plantinga is relatively young (32) to hold such an important position which involves the theological training of seminarians, however his youth proved no liability during the interviews. He spoke well and professed a sound, Reformed theology.

He graduated from Calvin College in 1967, followed by a term at Yale University. He then returned to Calvin Seminary to enter the ministry. He graduated in 1971 and thereupon served the Christian Reformed Church at Webster, N.Y. as pastor until 1975. He then entered a program of graduate studies at Princeton Theological Seminary and is presently working on his Ph.D.

Rev. Plantinga will take up the position in 1979.

Dr. Gordon Spykman, 52, graduated from Calvin College in 1949 and received his Th.B. degree from Calvin Seminary in 1952. He did graduate work at the Free University of Amsterdam, studying under Dr. G.C. Berkhouwer. In 1955 he received his Th.D. degree from that University.

Dr. Spykman served as pastor at Blenheim, Ont., from 1955-1959 and then joined the faculty of Calvin College where he has been teaching in the department of religion and

theology.

He has published a number of books including *Christian Faith in Focus*, and *Never on Your Own*, a catechism textbook. He is co-author with Dr. Marion Snapper of another catechism book, *Teach Me Thy Way*. Most recently he has produced a study guide to *Promise and Deliverance*.

The denomination is indeed blessed to have two such men in key positions within the religious departments of Calvin College and the Seminary.

A committee will study dancing

You may recall the uproar a year ago when it was discovered that students at our Christian colleges were discretely dancing and that the board of trustees at one of those colleges decided to do something about it.

The finger was pointed at Calvin College with its 4,000 students. Its board of trustees tried to combat the rather poor atmosphere at unofficial dancing parties by establishing guidelines and by trying to set up courses in which students might learn more about the art of dancing.

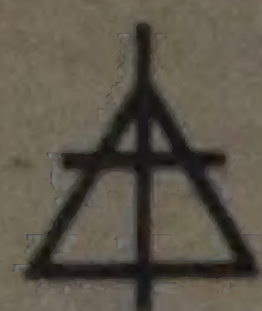
During the past year, the board of trustees faced a lot of reaction and once again came with this question to Synod: What shall we do? Synod's advisory committee looked at

the history of the dancing question and discovered that it has been inadequately dealt with by any Synod.

It suggested that Synod appoint a two-year study committee to dig through the old material such as decisions of 1928 and 1951 on worldly amusements and to look at the 1966 study on Church and the Film Arts, and then come up with a sound stand for the Synod of 1980.

The study committee will look at the entire concept of dancing, from ballet and stoeleendans to what we refer to as the social dance.

Meanwhile, your children will continue to dance at parties, at school and in college dormitory basements unofficially, of course.



Christian Reformed Church Synod

Day of fasting declared as part of world hunger awareness

There was a great social concern at Synod this year and that was evident as delegates spent some time discussing the report on the Task Force on World Hunger. That committee presented Synod with a 70-page report on the world hunger situation and came with a host of recommendations which will involve us as individuals, churches, classes and as a denomination.

Synod adopted a total of 19 recommendations. This extensive study on world hunger by the task force, which was appointed in 1976, confronts the church with crucial decisions about our answer to the hunger of millions of fellow citizens in our world.

The report confronts the church with the agony of hunger and starvation and with some of the complex problems of world hunger. Out of the Biblical perspective that man is God's steward who is to care for the earth and its creatures, it calls on us to change our way of living and to do what we can about world hunger. It recommends a comprehensive plan, not only to feed the hungry, but to help them feed themselves.

The comprehensive report will be reprinted in pamphlet form for use in churches and groups and will be available at cost.

Perhaps the most visible aspect of the report will come out on the first Sunday of November which Synod has designated as a day of fasting throughout the denomination with collections that day going towards the alleviation of hunger.

Individuals

The church calls upon the people of the CRC to respond to the hunger faced by so many persons in the world, especially by means of meaningful changes in lifestyle such as avoiding overconsumption and waste, and a wise use of our natural resources.

Individuals are also encouraged to contribute money towards hunger alleviation programs and to join in congregational programs designed to alleviate hunger.

Individuals are encouraged to study the report on world hunger so that they may develop a better understanding of the many facets of the world hunger problem. Synod also called upon the members of the church to "seek to do justice in their chosen vocations in an attempt to alleviate the structural or systematic injustice evident in today's world."

Congregation

Synod designated the first

Sunday of each November to be a denominational day of prayer and fasting in order to reflect on the awesome responsibility that believers in North America have in the face of the spiritual and physical starvation across the world.

Local churches are also encouraged to speak out on issues revolving around famine and starvation "by contacting their representatives in government on key issues surrounding this problem, urging actions consistent with Christian responses" and also by discussing such political issues in home, school and church as well as by active involvement in the political process.

Synod also affirmed that the deacons' responsibility is international in scope and that offerings for world benevolence are as necessary as offerings for local benevolence.

Denomination

Ministers will be encouraged, via the World Relief Committee, to deal with the world hunger problem in their sermons. Denominational agencies, along with local deacons and diaconal conferences, will sponsor conferences and workshops on world hunger throughout the denomination.

The church will also undertake a detailed plan to respond effectively to world hunger with a ministry of Word and deed. The CRWRC and World Missions will work together to establish a nation or nations in which they can effectively work together.

A special "hunger fund" will be established and there will be a selection of a "hungry country" as the initial target for an intensive, long-range ministry to the whole person, with several alternate countries indicated. Congregations and classes will be encouraged to adopt sections of the target country.

There will also be an appeal to the members of the denomination to devote at least one per cent of their income to alleviation of hunger, without a decrease in their contribution to other related work.

The task Force on World Hunger will continue its work for one more year so that it can monitor the implementation of this program as well as other synodical decisions arising from this report.

Comment

As you can see, this is no little task. The report calls for a lot of action at all levels and the church, through the synodical decision, has adopted

those various lines of action.

The report was designed to create an awareness of the hunger situation in the world and, in adopting this plan, that kind of awareness is bound to take place.

During the second week of Synod, a "hunger awareness" dinner was held and was attended by more than 100 delegates. Food was handed out in world proportions so that some ate steak and others ate a bowl of rice and water. It certainly made its point.

The Task Force on World Hunger not only informed the denomination of the nature of the hunger situation in the world but it also offered a sound course of action for the church to take, something which is long overdue.

Banner seeks new editor

Dr. Lester De Koster, who became editor of The Banner in 1970, will retire in 1980. The Banner is the Christian Reformed Church's official publication and is read by some 45,000 families in Canada and the United States each week.

The selection of a new editor will be a careful one with the board of publications nominating candidates at its February, 1979 annual meeting. Synod will then elect the editor-in-chief at its June, 1979 Synod and he will begin his first two year term in September, 1980.

The board of publications, through its periodicals committee, will canvass the field for possible candidates and will undergo a screening process in its selection.

The board, in selecting the

successor to Dr. De Koster, will also be looking at the staff structure. Recommendations in the form of an overture called for a multiple editorship with an editor-in-chief and five regional editors to provide a healthy balance of representation.

The board of publications will have to look at its staff structure carefully. It must look at the concept of accountability but, more important, it must look for an editor who can speak to and for the layman, a person who can relate to the people and who can convey the "denomination's voice" in plain, simple language.

Churches and classes have already been involved in submitting names to the board of publications for their consideration.

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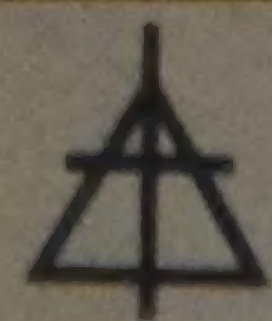
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Christian Reformed Church Synod

Five synods meet together

As a rule, the campus of Calvin College and Seminary in Grand Rapids, Mich. is relatively quiet during the month of June with only 154 delegates to the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church wandering around during a few, brief breaks.

But the campus was lively this year during the month of June as four other denominations held their synod meetings at the same time. All five denominations are members of NAPA RC (North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council). In total, 1,200 delegates were there, along with wives and children, to make a lively campus.

The 1,200 delegates represented 400,000 members of which 288,000 are Christian Reformed. One denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America, sent two representatives from each church for a total of 800 delegates.

The five churches taking part in the simultaneous assemblies were the Christian Reformed Church, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the

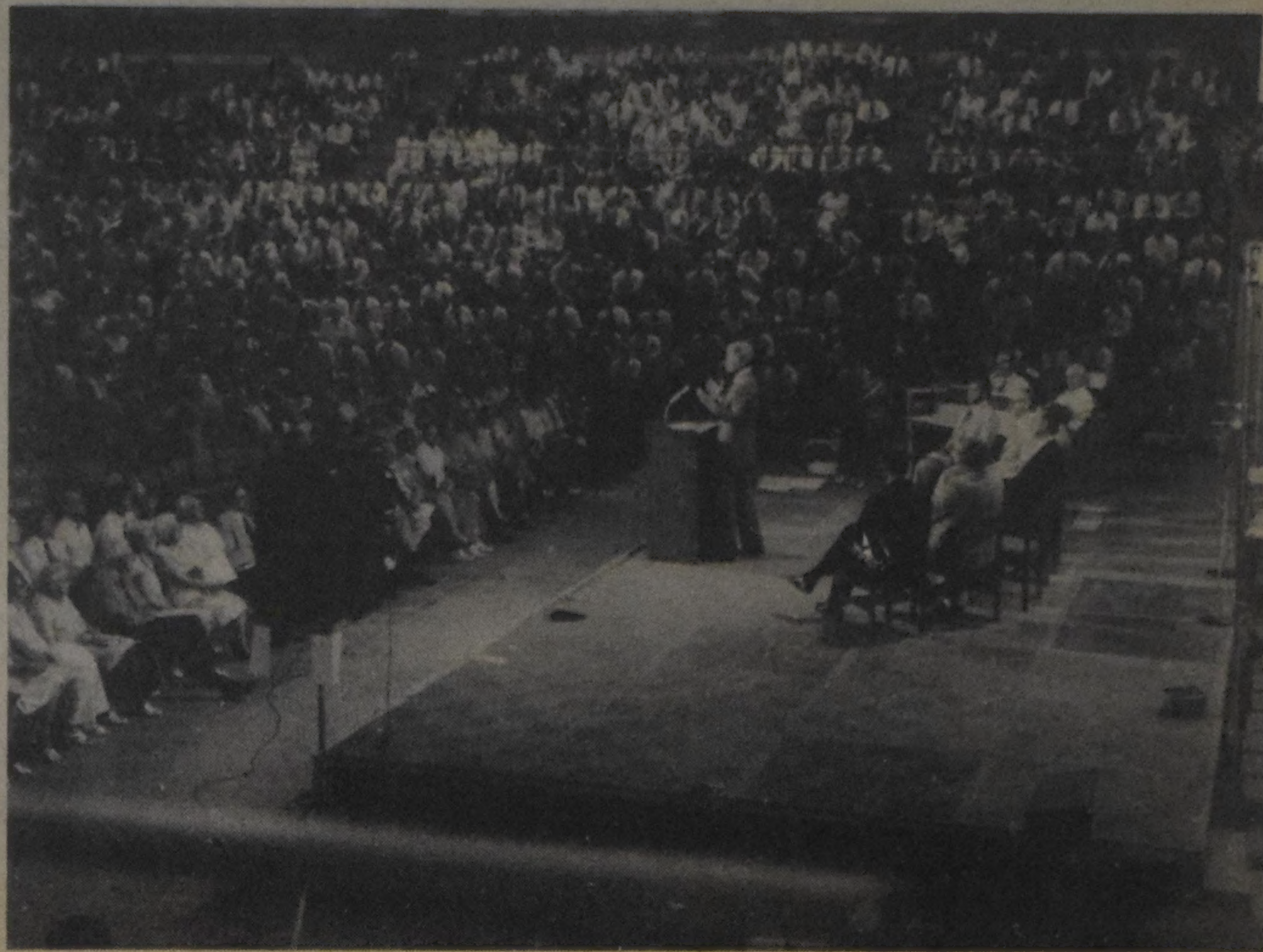
Reformed Presbyterian Church (Evangelical Synod), the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, and the Presbyterian Church in America.

The highlight of this ecumenical effort was a joint prayer and praise service which was attended by some 2,500 people. It featured addresses by the five presidents of their respective synods and a speech by Dr. Joel Nederhood, minister of the Back to God Hour.

Dr. Nederhood stressed the responsibilities of the churches represented in the gathering. He said that they were obligated to bring healing and reconciliation to North America, as well as the judgment of Christ to social activities and institutions.

Dr. Nederhood referred specifically to a need for Christian schools as an alternative to public education, and he also condemned the current pro-abortion laws in the United States.

The June 19 service also featured formal greetings from leaders of each of the



A "Unique Display of Ecumenicity" occurred recently in Grand Rapids, Michigan, when 2,500 people from five denominations met for a joint worship service. Dr. Joel Nederhood, director of The Back to God Hour, delivered the main address at the gathering.

participating denominations. Rev. Clarence Boomsma,

president of the CRC Synod, noted that "we are experien-

cing a new dimension in ecumenicity here."

Lord's Supper forms adopted

The denomination's Liturgical Committee was born in 1964 when Synod gave it a mandate to "review all our liturgical literature in the light of its history, its theological content, and the contemporary needs of the churches; and to recommend such revisions or substitutions as the results of this review might yield."

That is not a little task and that is why that standing committee continues to labour from year to year in systematically looking at all of the church's liturgical material.

In 1968 that committee came to Synod with a provisional (or trial) form for the Lord's Supper with the view of having the churches use it and relate their reactions to the committee. Now, a decade later, the committee asked Synod to formally approve the form.

Surprisingly, several classes and churches knew very little about that 10-year-old form. They have been accustomed to using one of the traditional three forms in the back of the Psalter Hymnal. This "provisional form" can only be found in occasional Acts of Synod and in the Psalter Hymnal Supplement of 1974.

This new form, which has been before the churches for 10 years, includes an entire liturgy or order of worship for the celebration of the Lord's Supper and also involves a lot of congregational participation.

Synod, by the way, did adopt the new form. The Liturgical Committee is also working on variations of that 10-year-old "new" form to make it suitable for special occasions such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

The Liturgical Committee also did some revising of the present three forms for the Lord's Supper in the back of the Hymnal. The committee has provided a complete order of worship for the three basic forms which, in essence, makes the entire worship service one of Lord's Supper celebration rather than a form which is often tacked on to the end of the worship service. Synod also approved of those forms which are merely presented to the churches for their use if they want them.

Service book

Since the Liturgical Committee began its work in 1964,

it has produced a number of new translations and new forms. Consequently there is no uniform packet of liturgical orders in use by the churches. The committee proposes the creation of a Service Book which will contain all of the forms in loose leaf form. It is designed to create "a common Reformed mind on liturgy and music for worship", and as an orderly way for presenting to the churches liturgical forms approved by Synod and those proposed for provisional use.

We will eventually have three books in the pew racks then. The Bible, a Psalter Hymnal which will contain only songs and no forms, and a Service Book which will have all the forms. It is a lot of work, but then we Reformed Christians like to be organized, don't we?

There was one more form which was adopted by Synod and that was the translation of the form for adult baptism. The form came before Synod last year for approval but it was referred back to the committee because of its "weaknesses in style and wording." With a few changes here and there, the form was approved this year.

Church will look at facilities for retarded persons

Synod appointed a study committee which will spend the next year looking at the need of institutional Christian care for covenant members of the church who are so retarded as to be uneducable and/or untrainable.

Pine Rest Christian Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich. established a Children's Retreat in 1953 to care for retarded children. The program included in-patient services for 120 children and a broad special education program for handicapped children in the community.

A year ago, Pine Rest's board of trustees decided to phase out the in-patient care to the retarded because of tougher state laws governing the care of the retarded.

Classis Rocky Mountain overtured Synod to appoint a study committee and Synod agreed that the need was there. This study committee will also determine the availability and adequacy of such care in Canada and the U.S., having regard for the type of care which is presently available and the present and future needs for it within the CRC.

Thirty-eight new candidates

The Synod of the Christian Reformed Church approved the candidacy of 38 men into the ministry of the denomination. Of the 38, only 7 will have to wait for a few weeks until they complete their academic requirements.

The candidates are: Douglas Aldrink, Harry Bout, Kenneth Baker, Bruce Ballast, Daniel Boerman, Timothy Brown, Dean Dyk, Carl Bruxvoort, Jon De Bruyn, Ronald De Groot, Dean Deppe, David Deters, Stanley Drenth, Jeffrey Dykema, Daniel Gritter, Jelmer Groenewold, Harold Harfger, John Heidinga, Peter Kelder.

Carl Kromminga, Jr., William Moxey, Timothy Nelson, James Poelman, Cornelius Pool, William Renkema, Eric Schering, Donald Slager, Duabe Smith, Tom Soerens, William Tuininga, Richard Vanden Berg, Harry Vander Windt, Eelco Vander Woude, Jack Van Dyken, John Wanders, Frank Wevers, George Young, Robert Zomermaand.

Dean Dyk will serve in the Michigan Department of Corrections, and William Renkema and Donald Slager will be working as missionaries with the denomination's World Missions board.



Christian Reformed Church Synod

Adult education curriculum approved

For generations, young people were under the impression that when they did profession of faith they were finished with the church's education program for good. They had gone through the Sunday school program and a few years of catechism. They had also done a bit of Bible study in Calvinettes, Cadets and Young People's Society.

For many, profession of faith marked an end to the church's education system and they were now ready to face the world, firm in the knowledge that their years in catechism gave them a solid foundation to deal with a sinful world.

Well, you and I both know that education never ends, especially when it comes to learning more about the Bible and how to apply it to our lives. We are never too old to learn.

The Christian Reformed Church saw the need to develop some sort of Bible study for adults and, in 1976, appointed a full time Adult Education Editor to prepare something that would be suitable for the churches.

Synod adopted that plan in mid-June during its two weeks of deliberations. It is an ambitious plan which will give the church a wealth of material over the next five years and it will deal with a variety of subjects (see editorials June 9,

16).

To refresh your memory, there will be five major divisions: studies in the sacred Scripture, God's work in history, the creeds and confessions, Christian living, and the various functions within the church.

Adult Education Editor Dr. Edwin Walhout says that the program "will concentrate attention on our general Reformed and specifically Christian Reformed heritage, distinguishing between this heritage and cultural tradition, in order to foster growing understanding of, appreciation for, and participation in, the work of this part of Christ's church."

During recent years there has been a healthy growing involvement of all church members in the work of the church, seen, for example, in increasing lay participation in worship services and on denominational boards, in evangelism and in adult education.

"Our adult education program will be developed with a core curriculum which provides systematic and continuing instruction in a variety of subjects, and which is designed to equip the saints for ministry", says education director A. James Heynen.

A wide variety of adult groups meet in the churches: adult church school classes on Sunday, weekday ladies' and men's groups, couples' clubs,

grow groups, Bible study groups, prayer breakfast groups. The adult education program will incorporate as much flexibility as possible so that it can be used by a variety of groups meeting on different schedules and for different purposes.

The problem in educating the young and old of our church has been in leadership. Extensive leader aids will be produced as part of the adult education curriculum (manuals, guides, etc.) and additional leadership training will be provided as soon as possible.

What does it all mean? It means that over the next five years, the board of publication's education department will be writing and producing material which can be used by the adults of the church, from the high school graduate to the retiree. It means that we will have material which will help us to grow in the faith and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ as our Lord.

Dr. Walhout was appointed two years ago and during that time he has developed this adult education framework. Synod has re-appointed him for a four year term so that he can put those concepts into practice. He and the other members of the education department will need a great deal of support and prayer in their great task of instructing those of us who sit in the pew.



Elected as executive of the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church for 1978 were, front row, Rev. Alvin Venema, second clerk; Rev. Howard Spaan, first clerk; back row, Rev. Andrew Kuyvenhoven, vice-president; Rev. Clarence Boomsma, president.

Slight raise for ministers

Ministers in the Christian Reformed Church will receive a minimum salary for 1979 of \$12,200. This involves an increase of \$200 or less than 2 per cent. But they will, however, be eligible to receive a service increment of \$50 per year for every year in the ministry, up to 20 years.

Minimum car allowance has been set at \$2,000 per year and a child allowance of \$500 for every child up to age 22 was also approved.

In a 24-page manual entitled the 1978 Compensation

Guide for Ministers of the CRC, it points out that the average salary for the average Canadian minister in 1978 was \$18,915. That figure includes cash salary, housing allowance or parsonage occupancy, and utilities.

The average ministers' compensation in the United States for 1978 was \$17,975. Take into account the higher cost of living factor in Canada and the value of the Canadian dollar, they would be about even.

Social concern in the Church

The Synod of the Christian Reformed Church turned down a bid to create a new denominational board because it was felt that that work could be carried out more effectively by each local church.

The topic was social justice, a very broad and vague term. A study committee which was appointed in 1977 to look at the church's role in social justice came with a recommendation this year to create a standing committee on social justice which would provide a Christian educational vehicle, gathering together material from such agencies as the CJL, CLAC, and the Association for Public Justice (APJ) in the U.S.

Synod said no to that recommendation, saying that there was no need for such a body. It did agree that there was a need for Christians of the Reformed faith, both as individuals and as denomination, to speak to the issues of social justice in the world. But Synod said that "the goal can be accomplished more effectively on a local level through individuals and congregations work-

ing through social justice committees, on a regional level through the work of Classis, and on a national and international level through appropriate synodical testimonies."

Synod therefore urges each congregation to establish a social justice committee to gather information and to recommend action on social justice matters of local concern.

The denomination will officially call upon its Christian educational institutions and agencies and its board of publications to attract writers and speakers who are knowledgeable in the area of social justice.

There are a number of churches which are presently carrying out these kinds of programs, especially in areas such as the CRC in Washington, D.C., as well as a committee of the Council of Christian Reformed Churches in Canada. Those concerns are also evident in the operation of Outreach, a local Christian concern group which operates out of the Calvinist Contact office.



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Christian Reformed Church Synod

Hamersma gave recital during synod gatherings

Dr. John Hamersma, professor of music, and college organist at Calvin College, played a recital on the Zonder-van Memorial Organ in the Calvin Fine Arts Center Auditorium on June 18 as a celebration to mark the concurrent meetings on campus of the Christian Reformed Synod and four other denominations who together comprise the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC).

Hamersma's extensive musical background includes service at Union Theological Seminary, performing as part of the New York City Handel Festival in St. Thomas Church, and a recital in Riverside Church in New York.

He has been a frequent lecturer at church music workshops, including lecture-recital work at the Michigan State University workshops of 1970 and 1975. In addition to participating in the 18th and 19th

International Organ Academy in Haarlem, The Netherlands in 1971 and 1972, he worked with Marie Claire Alain, Piet Kee, Anton Heiler, and Ewald Kooiman.

Hamersma was invited to play the Festival Kantate Service at the internationally known Immanuelkirche in Wuppertal, Germany in 1974, the only American to be so honored.

During his sabbatical year of 1973-1974, he was guest organist in several German churches, and over the years has played a number of recitals in Michigan and other states, besides performing for several chapter and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists.

A prolific writer as well as frequent recitalist, Hamersma edited a variety of choral works on Genevan Psalm tunes by 16th century composers that were published by

Calvin College in 1962 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Genevan Psalter.

He is music consultant for The Children's Hymnal, musical editor for the Hymns for Youth songbook, both published by the National Union of Christian Schools, and has been a frequent contributor to journals on church music.

Hamersma is also on the board of directors of the Opera Association of Western Michigan.

Calvin's 39-rank pipe organ was built by the Schlicker Company of Buffalo, New York, and was dedicated December 31, 1967. The open location of the organ in the center at one end of the auditorium allows the pipes to speak freely and, without forcing their speech, permits the full sound to be heard throughout the auditorium. The location of the instru-

ment, the voicing of the pipes, and the design combine to produce a tone which is both clear and aggressive.

Hamersma's recital included the Prelude and fugue in G minor by Dietrich Buxtehude;

Johann Pachelbel's Partita: Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele; Litanies by Jehan Alain; J.S. Bach's Toccata in D minor (Dorian); Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck's Partita on Psalm 116; and the Choral III in A minor by Cesar Franck.



Synod in brief

Bible Way curriculum

The Christian Reformed Church's Bible Way curriculum for school-age children has been given two more years of life before it is revised. Materials first produced in 1972 were going to be revised in 1980 but will continue to be used until 1982 before they are revised. The extended life of the curriculum is financially advantageous and it also gives the education department a bit more time to prepare the Adult Education Curriculum.

De Wachter continues

The denomination's official Dutch-language publication, De Wachter, will continue to be published under the editorship of Rev. William Haverkamp. Rev. Haverkamp, now in his early 70s, was reappointed as editor for a two year term.

Lodge and Church

The board of publications will print a 10-page summary statement of a 1977 Synod report entitled Lodge Oath and Church Membership. The statement was adopted last year and is available to the churches as an effective piece of literature on the church's stand on lodge membership.

New Hymnal

The Psalter Hymnal Revision Committee has completed its first year of preparations in a projected 10-year-long plan to revise and publish a new

Psalter Hymnal. The committee is using a number of musicians and poets in analyzing music which will be suitable for inclusion in the new hymnal. It should be in your pew rack by 1990.

CRC pastor in Jordan

The Amman International Church in Jordan has asked the Christian Reformed Church to provide a minister for its Jordan church. The board of world missions termed it as "a unique opportunity to bring the Gospel to the Moslem world". Synod approved of the request to provide the church with a minister for the church with 30 families. The denomination's cost will be about \$20,000 and that will come out of a 35 cent quota which has been added to the world missions quota.

In the parsonage

Synod reversed a decision by synods of 1972 and 1975 in relation to moving of candidates which will allow a candidate for the ministry to move into the parsonage of the calling church before he has sustained the classical examination. The existing rule has been a source of unreasonable inconvenience and expense to the candidate and the calling church. In recent years, the candidate had to wait until he passed the classical examination before he would be allowed to move into the parsonage. If he fails the examination, it

will be up to the calling church to decide who pays for the moving bill.

Koinonia Declaration

Some South African Christians prepared the Koinonia Declaration some months ago which reflects a Christian attitude towards the racial issues in South Africa. Synod declared that "it considers the Koinonia Declaration to be an excellent enunciation of biblical principles and a significant reformational statement on South African race relations by Reformed Christians." Synod urged the churches in South Africa to respond to the Declaration "in order to pursue fruitful dialogue on the application of biblical principles to race relations in our respective countries."

Church fellowship

Synod formally welcomed the Reformed Presbyterian Church (Covenanters) of North America as a church in ecclesiastical fellowship. The denomination has 63 churches across the United States and a membership roll of 5,500. It has an unbroken history since the Reformation with the first Covenanter church established in North America in 1743. All six categories of the fellowship apply, including the one of intercommunion. Until 1977, the RPCNA limited communion to members of its own denomination.

GKN relationship

Synod has invited the Gereformeerde Kerken (Vrijgemaakt-Buitenverband) to enter the relationship of ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRC. That relationship came on the recommendation of the denomination's Inter-Church Relations Committee.

Retired ministers

The following notices of emeritation were approved by Synod: Rev. Henry De Moor, Sr. (British Columbia), Rev. Repko Popma (Quinte), Dr. Harry Boer (Illiana), Rev. Harold Bossenbroek (Pella), Rev. Marinus Goote (G.R. South), Rev. Edward Heerema (Florida), Dr. Anthony Hoekema (G.R. East), Rev. Siebert Kramer (Pella), Rev. Anthony Rozendal (Zeeland), and Rev. Peter Vis (Wisconsin).

Dordt invitation

Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa will mark its 25th anniversary in 1980 and invited the Synod of the CRC to meet on campus then. The recommendation was turned down because additional costs to move denominational staff to Iowa would be prohibitive.

Cost for Synod

The costs to operate the two weeks of deliberations of Synod of the Christian Reformed Church for 1978 came to a total of \$88,000.

Vlieg met ons per charter.

**14-60 dagen Charter klas tarief
naar Amsterdam, voor \$369.00
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Of uw verblijf in Europa slechts 14 of 60 dagen is, U kunt nu met een gewone lijnvlucht van de KLM of CP Air op een speciaal laag charter tarief naar Amsterdam vliegen. Dit is de soepelheid waar u naar uitkeek! Vertrekken wanneer u wilt, wegblijven zo lang u wilt! En KLM en CP Air waarde en service krijgen voor charter prijs. Hier zijn de voordelen:

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*Uw verblijf in Europa kan zo lang of kort zijn als u wilt binnen de 14-60 dagen periode. En u kunt vertrouwen hebben in KLM en CP Air vluchten of er nu weinig of veel passagiers zijn. Geen risico's dat een vlucht wordt afgelast wegens gebrek aan passagiers.

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*Vanaf Toronto, behalve op zaterdag vanaf 30 april. Vanaf Montreal, behalve de maandagen voor 13 juni en na 12 september.

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Tarieven na 1 mei zijn afhankelijk van goedkeuring van de regering.

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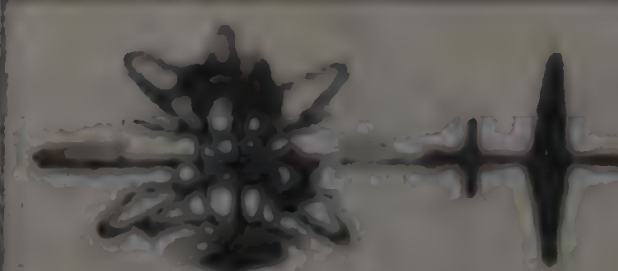
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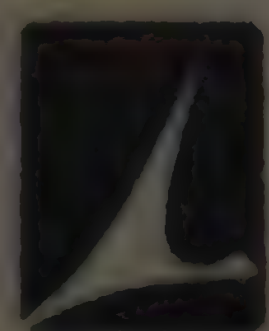
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De omgang met de bijbel heiligt ons leven

De Bijbel is al een oud boek, geschreven door meer dan veertig zeer verschillende schrijvers over een periode van vijftienhonderd jaar, in verschillende landen, en in drie talen. Het is een bibliotheek van zes en zestig boeken, en het wordt u toch gepresenteerd als één boek, en u wordt verzocht oud en nieuw testament, al moogt u ze onderscheiden, toch niet van elkaar te scheiden. Het oude wijst naar het nieuwe, het nieuwe vervult het oude.

Door dat boek spreekt God vandaag nog tot de mens en openbaart de volheid van zijn genade en trouw in Jezus Christus van wie de Bijbel spreekt in oud en nieuw testament. God is niet alleen een God van verre tijden, van het verleden, een God van de vaders, neen. Hij is een God van vandaag en spreekt vandaag nog door dat oude boek, waaruit telkens oude en nieuwe schatten kunnen worden opgedolven.

Als zo de bijbel het levende Woord van de levende God voor ons is, dan moet dat boek ook gekend worden, dan moet het gelezen worden, dan moet het verslonden worden. Onze harten moeten begerig zijn om uit dat Woord te worden onderwezen. Wij moeten God in ons bijbellezen zoeken, en trachten Zijn stem uit dat boek te vernemen.

Hoe staat het met het lezen van de Schrift? Best, goed, minder goed, slecht? Ieder onzer weet dat het bijbellezen een voorname factor is voor de versterking van ons geloof. Daarom heeft de bijbel in het christelijk gezin een ereplaats. En wordt hij gelezen. Zo behoort het althans te wezen.

Vroeger lag de bijbel in onze gezinnen meestal op de schoorsteenmantel, en ieder wist hem te vinden. Nu zie ik hem heel vaak boven op de frigde liggen! Een ereplaats. Boven de voedselreserve. 'On top of the food' ligt de bijbel, het voedsel voor ons leven met God. En die bijbel wordt daar geregeld afgehaald om er een gedeelte uit te lezen. Dat hoop ik. Waarom? Er wordt niet zo trouw meer uit de bijbel gelezen als vroeger. Er zijn gezinnen die de dag beginnen — nu ja niet zonder ontbijt, dat niet — maar wel zonder het lezen van de bijbel. Er zijn gezinnen waar men het alleen op zondag doet. Totaal verkeerd natuurlijk, want dan denken de kinderen: de bijbel, o die heeft alleen wat met de zondag te maken. En als men het wat vaker doet is het een frappante openbaring als een van de kleinkinderen zegt: when grandpa is visiting us we read the bible three times! (als opa ons opzoekt dan lezen we de bijbel drie keer per dag!)

Het lezen van de bijbel is nodig om onze onkunde van Gods Woord te bestrijden. Maar het is vooral nodig om te leren bij de Heilige Schrift te leven. Daarom schrijf ik er ook over in deze rubriek. U moet allen het goede voorbeeld blijven geven door getrouw uit Gods Woord te lezen. En we moeten blijven volhouden dat het lezen van de Schrift na een maaltijd een goede gewoonte is. En het is voor het geloofsleven gevaarlijk om goede gewoonten af te schaffen. De Heilige Schrift komt zodoende steeds in het centrum van ons leven en van onze kinderen en huisgenoten aan het woord. Zij worden er elke keer weer bij bepaald dat God een Woord heeft gegeven aan de mensheid, een Woord dat tot de mens spreekt over de enige weg ter zaligheid en de enige manier om God echt te dienen.

Door de dagelijkse omgang met het Woord van God leren we uit dat Woord te leven! Wij worden er gehoorzaam aan en laten ons door de Heer leiden, als we met ons hart naar Zijn Woord luisteren. De bijbel stelt ons geen vage eisen, doch is zeer absoluut. Hij vraagt maar niet een zekere mate van geloof of heiligheid, maar vordert ons totaal op, om de Heer te geloven, te volgen en te dienen.

Hij laat ons echter ook zien dat we alles van Hem mogen verwachten, dat we bij Hem nooit beschaamd uitkomen. Hij geeft ons moed tot belijdenis en kracht tot gehoorzaamheid. Als we echter niet echt luisteren naar het Woord, dwz. niet onszelf naar dat Woord voegen, dan gaat dat Woord om zo te zeggen dicht voor ons. Dan spreekt het ons niet meer aan, we verliezen het gevoel der genade "totdat ons, wanneer wij door een ernstige boetvaardigheid op de weg wederkeren, het vaderlijk aanschijn van God opnieuw verschijnt" (Dordtse Leerregels V,5) Zo wil de omgang met de bijbel ons leven heiligen.

J. Van Harmelen

door Rev. Len Schalkwyk

Ons aller lijfblad, Calvinist Contact, heeft me onlangs gevraagd om af en toe eens in het Hollands te schrijven. Nu heb ik toch iets beleefd dat de moeite waard is om verder te vertellen.

Het begon heel gewoon met een autorit samen met Rev. Adrian Van Geest en Rev. Harry Salomons naar Montreal. We zouden in het Tehuis voor Zeelieden aan de haven een bestuursvergadering houden van de "Seaway Ministry", de evangelisatie arbeid onder de zeevarenden. Maar de altijd actieve zeelieden predikant Rev. Hans Uittenbosch had eerst voor ons een bezoek georganiseerd aan zijn zendingsveld, de haven.

Bijna 8 mijl van het Tehuis voor Zeelieden lagen 3 Russische vrachtaarders. We beklommen de nauwe metalen ladder van een Russisch schip. Eenmaal aan dek, werden we begroet door de altijd aanwezige wacht en geleid naar de hut van degene die de manschappen moet beschermen tegen anti-communistische invloeden. Deze functionaris heet: "Politieke Commissaris" en elk Russisch schip heeft zo'n communistische "waakhond" aan boord. Dit kan een stuurman zijn, een werktuigkundige of een mar-

conist of medisch doctor. Wat de ideologische autoriteit betreft, is hij de hoogste aan boord, staat zelfs boven de kapitein; maar zijn rank aan boord is altijd: eerste stuurman. Hij is belast met het "geestelijk welzijn" van alle opvarenden. Hij zorgt er b.v. voor dat de ontspanning aandacht krijgt. Hij organiseert schaak- en dam-wedstrijden. Hij deelt literatuur uit, uiteraard uitsluitend literatuur die de ideologie van het "regime" weergeeft. Iedereen op het schip is lid van de Communistische Partij; anders had men geen werk kunnen krijgen.

Rev. Uittenbosch had de bemanning van het hele schip uitgenodigd 's avonds in het Zeemanshuis een film over de Olympische spelen van 1976 te komen bezichtigen. Nooit in de geschiedenis is daarvoor vergunning gegeven, aangezien Russische zeelieden na 8 uur 's avonds niet de walreep af de wal op mogen: dit ter bescherming van de "ideologie".

We kregen een rondleiding van het schip dat van de meest moderne instrumenten voorzien bleek te zijn. Gedurende deze tour ontdekten we dat verschillende zee-uitdrukkingen in het Russisch hetzelfde zijn als in het Nederlands. Dat is wel te verklaren, want Czaar Peter De Grote heeft gedu-

rende zijn verblijf in Zaan- dam, deze nautische termen overgenomen en mee teruggebracht naar Rusland. Zo is een hut (kajuit) in het Russisch: "kajut". Stuurman en matroos werd "Sturman" en "matros".

Terug in de "kajut" van de Commissaris, werden we onthaald op Russisch varkensvlees, op het schip gebakken tarwebrood en gebakken aardappeltjes. Gitzwarte Russische koffie besloot het menu.

Al de tijd had de Politieke Commissaris geen enkel blijk gegeven van enig interesse in het Evangelie en hij ontweek alle vragen dienaangaande. Hij gaf ons echter ook geen uitleg van de vele en onderscheidene communistische leerboeken, die in zijn kast prijken. Rev. Uittenbosch vroeg vergunning om te mogen bidden voor het eten. Deze vergunning werd niet gegeven noch geweigerd. Dus trok Rev. Uittenbosch de stoute schoenen aan en begon God te danken voor dit voedsel, omdat Hij toch de schepper is van hemel en aarde. We baden in het bijzonder voor een zegen in Christus voor de Politieke Commissaris. En dat alles gebeurde nog wel vlak onder de felle ogen van Lenin, wiens grote portret aan de muur prijkte. Zelden heeft

PERSOVERZICHT

door Carl D. Tuyt

•De regering in Ottawa kondigde aan dat 400 miljoen dollar besteed zou worden voor het onderzoek naar nieuwe bronnen van energie. De Minister van Financien baarde nogal opzien met de mededeling dat de verkoop-belasting in Oktober weer tot zeven procent zal worden opgevoerd.

•Er heerst een soort "loterij-oorlog" tussen de regering in Ottawa en de vier Westelijke provinciën. De provinciën zien hun eigen gokkerij-winst bedreigd door de verkoop van Loto-Canada loten. De provinciale regeringen hebben hun agenten verboden de Loto-Canada briefjes te verkopen. Het zal wel op een rechtszaak uitlopen.

•Reakties op Trudeau's voorstellen aangaande grondwetsherzieningen waren nogal koel. Vooral de voorgestelde herziening van ons hoogste gerechtshof, hetgeen volgens Trudeau's voorstellen samengesteld zou worden op grond van provinciale vertegenwoordiging werd zeer gereserveerd besproken. Uit de provinciën, met name Ontario, kwam ook sterke kritiek tegen de volledige doorvoering van het twee-talen stelsel.

•Gedurende het weekend van July 1 hebben 81 Canadezen het leven verloren tengevolge van ongevallen.

•In British Columbia krijgen teenagers van zestien tot achttien jaar geen financiële bijstand meer van de regering. De nieuwe maatregel werd in het provinciale parlement vooral bekritiseerd door de linkse fractie.

•De oudste persoon in Amerika is ex-slaaf Charlie Smith, die zich nog herinnert verkocht te zijn in New Orleans op 4 July 1854. Zijn leeftijd wordt op 136 jaar geschat.

•Er is een toenemende stijging in temperatuur in de koude oorlog tussen China en Viet Nam. China heeft Rusland beschuldigt van

het vestigen van militaire bases aan de grens van de twee landen.

•In de hoofdstad van Libanon waar de herbouw van oorlogsschade alreeds wat gevorderd was, braken opnieuw zware gevechten uit. De zogenaamde Christelijke sektor van de stad werd gebombardeerd door Syriese artillerie. Kranten berichtten dat het aantal doden meer dan honderd was terwijl er ook driehonderd personen gewond werden.

•De diplomatieke bezoeken van de Amerikaanse vice-president in het Midden-Oosten schijnen wel vruchtbaar te zijn geweest. Er is sprake van het weer op gang komen van de vredesonderhandelingen tussen Israël en Egypte. De onderhandelingen zullen waarschijnlijk plaats vinden in de Engelse hoofdstad. Men verwacht dat Israël en Egypte hun ministers van buitenlandse zaken naar de onderhandelingstafel zullen zenden.

•Sinds de guerrilla activiteiten in Rhodesia begonnen, nu ongeveer zes jaar geleden, moeten meer dan drie duizend burgers in dat land het leven verloren hebben in deze bloedige strijd.

•Vrouwen emancipatie bereikte Madrid waar een achttien-jarig meisje keurig netjes volgens de regelen een stier wist af te maken. Vrouwen hadden sinds veertig jaar geen plaats in de stierengevechten in Madrid. Nu mag het wel.

•In Den Haag werd aangekondigd dat Prinses Christina een miskraam heeft gehad. De prinses en haar man wonen in New York en hebben een zoon van een jaar oud: Bernardo.

•En om alle brieven-schrijvers gerust te stellen: de P.T.T. stakingen in Amsterdam en Rotterdam hebben maar één dag geduurd.

op bezoek



The city of Montreal and its harbour.

een gebed bij de maaltijd zoveel voor me betekend.

Toen kwam de tijd van het geschenken geven. Rev. Uittenbosch had een papieren boodschappentas bij zich en van onder "neutrale" tijdschriften, kaarten en een vlag

van Montreal, kwam een kleine bruine zak te voorschijn. Toen de Politieke Commissaris dat zakje even ingekeken had, sloot hij het snel en plaatste het in zijn bureau: het was een Russisch Bijbeltje. Nu ontroerd, rommelde en zocht

hij in een paar laden van één van zijn kasten. Hij haalde een prachtig boek met photo's van Noord-Rusland te voorschijn en gaf het aan Rev. Uittenbosch. Ieder van ons kreeg een Russische grammofoonplaat in de hand gedrukt en toen

was het bezoek ook voorbij.

Toen we veilig en wel het schip af waren, stonden we even stil. "De Here heeft het zo geleid, dat hij precies kreeg wat hij hebben wilde" zeiden we tot elkaar. Lezer, wilt U voor deze stuurman bidden? De Here kent zijn naam, maar om veiligheidsredenen kan ik die niet noemen.

Bid ook voor de andere opvarenden van dat schip, die 's avonds bijna allemaal in het Zeemanshuis de hele avond hebben doorgebracht. Verschillende Evangelie boekjes in het Russisch, die we verspreid hadden neergelegd, hebben ze meegenomen.

Bid voor de vervolgte gelovigen in Rusland en andere communistische landen. Bid ook voor het werk in andere havens in Canada: Rev. Dresselhuys evangeliseert in de haven van Vancouver, B.C. Bidt ook voor Gerry and Maureen Blom, Fred en Lena Tiesma, John en Cathy Kalverda, drie Christian Reformed jonge gezinnen in Saint John, New Brunswick, die de tijd afnemen om schepen te bezoeken en om zeelieden als de "vreemdeling in hun poort" te begroeten, in de Naam van de Gastheer Jezus Christus.

Gods werk gaat door. Daarom geven wij de moed niet op. Jezus is overwinnaar!

Goedkoper reizen

in Nederland

Wist u dat u in Holland op vertoon van uw pas een 65+ kaart kunt krijgen? Deze kaart kost voor drie maanden f.23.00 of voor een heel jaar f 57. U kunt daarmee op bepaalde dagen vrij reizen en voor de rest van de tijd hoeft u maar half geld te betalen. Informeer naar de mogelijkheden als u in Nederland bent. Op de VVV bureaus en bij de Spoorwegen kunt u een foldertje krijgen waar alles in staat.

Onze vergissing

Hoogtepunten uit de geschiedenis van de RCA in Canada door Mr. Martin DeVos verscheen in het Engels in het juni nummer van de Pionier, het Canadese blad van de Reformed Church. Het artikel verscheen in Calvinist Contact met goedvinden van de Pionier. Op de een of andere manier was dit niet vermeld toen het artikel in CC gedrukt werd. Onze verontschuldiging aan de Pionier.

Maranatha Home

ontvangt onderscheiding

De bouwers van het Maranatha Home in Burlington ontvingen een onderscheiding voor "Residential Design" van de Canadian Housing Design Council. Het is gekozen uit 200 inzendingen van een ontwerp-wedstrijd over heel Canada. Een artikel over dit tehuis verscheen in onze editie van 16 juni. Onze gelukwensen aan architect Trevor Garwood Jones en aannemer Valley Town Construction, beide in Burlington.

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Synode Christian Reformed Church: een historisch evenement

door Wm. Suk

Het is bepaald geen gemakkelijke taak om een rapport te schrijven over de vele zaken die deze Synode heeft afgehandeld gedurende haar zitting in Grand Rapids van 12 tot 22 juni 1978. Daarom zal ik een overzicht geven van die beslissingen, die in hun draagkracht verreikende gevolgen zullen hebben.

Een speciale bidstond werd gehouden in de LaGrave Christian Reformed Church op maandagavond, 12 juni om acht uur. Ds. J. Eppinga preekte die avond naar aanleiding van Numeri 11: 10-17 en Handelingen 6: 1-6, met als thema "Allen voor één". Het was een indrukwekkende dienst waar in de nadruk viel op het gebed voor de Synode.

Op dinsdagmorgen, 13 juni werd het moderamen verkozen. Ds. C. Boomsma van Grand Rapids werd de voorzitter; Ds. A. Kuyvenhoven van Clarkson, Vice-Voorzitter; Ds. H. Spaan van Corvallis, eerste scriba en Ds. A. Venema van Brantford, tweede scriba. Dus twee uit de States en twee uit Canada.

Dit jaar vergaderde op de Calvin Campus niet alleen de Synode van de Christian Reformed Church, maar ook de breedste vergaderingen van vier andere kerken, die samen lid zijn van de North American

Presbyterian and Reformed Council.

Een van de eerste zaken aan de orde van behandeling was de Kandidaatstelling van 31 jonge mannen voor de bediening van Woord en Sacramenten in de C.R.C.

Het eerste belangrijke rapport dat werd aangenomen was de Koinonia Declaration. Deze verklaring is een document opgesteld door een groep Zuid-Afrikaanse kerkleiders, waarin de huidige Z.A. politiek inzake de apartheid wordt veroordeeld. Met algemene stemmen werden de kerken binnen het raam van de Reformed Ecumenical Council opgeroepen om deze verklaring te steunen.

Van buitengewone belangstelling voor de kerken van Classis Toronto was het feit dat de Synode gehoor gaf aan het verzoek van deze classis om de Koreaanse Presbyterianse Kerk van Toronto toe te laten tot ons kerkverband. Deze kerk heeft de traditie van "ouderling voor leven".

Een historisch besluit was het aannemen van het voorstel om de Evangelist een speciale en officiële plaats te geven in onze kerken, met het recht om het Woord en de Sacramenten te bedienen binnen zijn werkterrein. In andere woorden, een nieuw ambt werd ingesteld. Onze Evangelisten zullen er dankbaar voor zijn. Het

heeft dertig jaar geduurd.

Een uitstekend rapport over honger in de wereld werd ook aangenomen. Van nu af aan wordt iedere eerste Zondag in November gewijd aan deze speciale "wereldnood" met gebed en vasten.

Op woensdag, 21 juni werd het rapport inzake vrouwelijke ouderlingen en diakenen behandeld. U kunt zich de grote belangstelling wel voorstellen voor deze zaak. De zaal was dan ook geheel gevuld met belangstellenden, voornamelijk met dames. Het werd een lange dag, maar ook een historische dag voor de Christian Reformed Church. Het minderheids-rapport in de agenda werd aangenomen maar daarvan alleen het eerste gedeelte. Om kort te gaan, de plaatselijke kerkeraad mag nu vrouwen toelaten tot het ambt van diaken, zo lang hun werk gescheiden blijft van dat van ouderling. Maar voordat de Synode tot deze beslissing kwam werd er hevig gedebatteerd.

Nog enige andere belangrijke besluiten: Dr. Neil Plantinga werd benoemd als docent aan Calvin Seminary. Een studie-committee werd benoemd om de dans in het licht van de Bijbel te bestuderen en verwacht rapport uit te brengen in 1980. De "New American Standard Bible" krijgt de goedkeuring om in de erediensten te worden gebruikt.

Inderdaad, een historische Synode. Vele belangrijke en verreikende besluiten werden genomen en we kunnen er van verzekerd zijn dat vele van die besluiten heel wat discussies te weeg zullen brengen. Een goede geest en broederlijke liefde gaven de hoofdtoon aan gedurende de Synodezittingen.

Mogen de genomen besluiten er toe bij dragen dat God's Naam verheerlijkt wordt, zodat Zijn Koninkrijk kome.

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L2R 4L3
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Notes of Thanks

BOLHUIS: We would like to express our sincere thanks to our children, relatives and friends for the unforgettable day of our 50th Wedding Anniversary. It was overwhelming. Above all we thank our Lord for all His many blessings over the years, and pray for guidance for the years to come. Mr. & Mrs. F.J. Bolhuis.

EISSES: We express our heartfelt thanks first to God and also to our children and grandchildren, relatives and friends for making our 35th Wedding Anniversary such an unforgettable day. Thanks for the many cards, gifts and good wishes. Albert and Jantje Eisses, R.R. #2 Stroud, Ont.

PLUG: To our friends, neighbours and relatives, thank you for the expressions of love and happiness you shared with us on our 25th Anniversary. Fantastic. Love, Hank & Greta Plug, 729 Oakdale Dr., Sarnia, Ont. N7V 2B1.

VANDERWEKKEN: We thank everyone for cards, flowers and good wishes, on the occasion of our 50th anniversary, an unforgettable day for us. And we ask the Lord for every blessing in the future. Fam. J. VanderWekken, Box 906, Lacombe, Alta.

Births

BENTUM: With joyful praise we thank God for the gift of our first child, MARK JAMES, born June 13, 1978. Happy parents are Jake & Janet Bentum. Mark is the first grandchild for Abel & Hennie Bentum and the fourth for Jim & Ann Klingenberg of Woodstock. R.R. #8, Woodstock, Ont.

GIBBONS: With thankfulness to God, we are happy to announce the birth of our third daughter, TARA DOROTHY, born June 14, 1978. A healthy little sister for Marsha and Sacha. Proud parents are Ross & Rita Gibbons, nee Eggink. Twenty-eighth grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. Geert Eggink, Jarvis and third grandchild for Mrs. Dorothy Gibbons, Jarvis. 33 Main St. S., Jarvis, Ontario.

HAANSTRA: John and Debbie (nee Van Herk) thank the Lord for entrusting into their care a son, RONALD HARVEY, born July 5, 1978. A brother for Marsha. Tenth grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. H. Haanstra and second grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Van Herk. R.R. #1, Caistor Centre, Ont. L0R 1E0.

KOOLMA: With thanks to God the Creator of Life we announce the birth of SUSANNE JESSICA born on Wednesday, June 14, 1978. A sister for Thomas Mark and Jessica C.V. Parents: E. Ralph J. Koolma and Jessie Koolma-Lise, 3 Henley Cres., Rexdale, Ont. M9W 2V8. Grandparents: Mevr. W. Koolma-Torn, Den Haag, Holland and Mr. & Mrs. Th. A. Lise, Drayton, Ont.

Advertise with us
It brings results

Births

LEFERINK: With thankful hearts to our God, John & Diane Leferink announce the birth of their son, ALBERT JOHN, born May 25, 1978. A little brother for Andrea and Danielle. Third grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. Tom Schenk of Georgetown, Ont. and tenth grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. Albert Leferink of Georgetown, Ont. P.O. Limehouse, Ont. L0P 1H0.

LINDEBOOM: With thankfulness to God, the Creator of Life, John & Florence are happy to announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, SHEILA MARIE, born June 21, 1978, weighing 6 lbs. 1 oz. Sheila is the fifth grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. John Vander Til, and the first grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. John Lindeboom. P.O. Box 612, Wyoming, Ont.

MAAS: With thankfulness to God, we are happy to announce the birth of our second child, a daughter, DANIELLE FIONA, born on July 1, 1978. A little sister for Jason Matthew. Happy parents are Tex and Dorothy Mass (nee Kulken), 78 Downey Dr., Bolton, Ont. L0P 1A0.

PRINS: We have received a beautiful gift from the Lord. Her name is MELANIE DANIELLE, born June 20, 1978. Happy parents are George and Sylvia Prins, of R.R. #5, Dunnville. Melanie is the 3rd grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. B. Hovius of Gowanstown and the 5th grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. P. Prins of Dunnville.

VANDERKOOY: John and Marlene (nee Smith) thank God for the safe arrival of their second son, JOHN "RYAN", 8 lb. 1 1/2 ozs, born May 15, 1978. Playmate for Todd. Grandparents: Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Smith, Caistor Centre, Ont. and Mr. & Mrs. Harry VanderKooy, Cayuga, Ontario.

VANDER WIER: With thankfulness to God, the Creator of Life, Adrian and Jane are happy to announce the birth of their son, HUGH JONATHAN, born on June 3, 1978. A little brother for Leona. Twenty-sixth grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. U. Vander Wier and fourth grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. G. Vos all of Smithville. Twentieth great-grandchild for Mrs. A. Vos and 6th great-grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. J. Zwaagstra, Netherlands. R.R. #2 Smithville, Ont.

WIERENGA: With thankfulness to God, the Creator of Life, Aylwin and Diana are pleased to announce the birth of their son, SCOTT BRYAN, born June 21, 1978 a healthy 8 lbs. 4 oz. First grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. M. Wierenga of Neerlandia, Alberta and sixth grandchild for Mr. & Mrs. G.H. Melenberg of Edmonton, Alberta.

Marriages

BANDSTRA-KOOPMANS: Mr. & Mrs. John Bandstra of Smithers, B.C. and Mr. & Mrs. Al Koopmans of Telkwa, B.C. are happy to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, DOROTHY and ALAN. The wedding will take place the Lord willing on August 11, 1978 at 7:30 p.m. in the Smithers Christian Reformed Church. Rev. S. Pastine officiating. Future address: Box 3517, Smithers, B.C.

BOUWMAN-MAC INDOE: Mr. & Mrs. John Bouwman of Calgary are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter INEKE to MIKE MAC INDOE, son of Mr. & Mrs. M. Mac Indoe of Burnaby, B.C. The wedding ceremony will take place the Lord willing on August 5, 1978 at 1:00 p.m. in the St. Matthew United Church (Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church) Rev. J. Joosse officiating. Future address: #312 11928-222 St., Maple Ridge, B.C.

Marriages

DE GROOT-DE KONING: With thanks to God, we, KLAASKE and NEIL, together with our parents, Peter & Tina de Groot and Jan & Jane de Koning, joyfully announce our wedding. The celebration will take place D.V. July 29, 1978 at 2:00 p.m. in the Willowdale Christian Reformed Church, Toronto. Pastor Louis Tamminga officiating. Future address: 1126 Eastern Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, Mich. 49506.

HORST-VALK: Mr. & Mrs. P. Horst of Montreal (Que.) and Mrs. S. Valk of Everett (Ont.) are pleased to announce the wedding of their children, ELLY and JOHN. We celebrated and worshipped with family and friends at a service in Willowdale Christian Reformed Church on July 8, 1978. Corr. address: 44 Romfield Drive, #5, Downsview, Ont. M3J 1K3.

MIEDEMA-LINDEMULDER: Mr. & Mrs. S. Miedema of Hamilton are very pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, ADELINE to JOHN, son of Mr. & Mrs. K. Lindemulder of Edmonton, Alta. This joyful occasion will take place D.V. on Friday, July 28, 7:30 p.m. in the West-End Chr. Ref. Church. Future address: 8010-159 St., Edmonton, Alta.

NIEBOER-VANDEN BERG: Mrs. Anne Nieboer of Fenwick, Ont. and Mr. & Mrs. Lester van den Berg of Edgerton, Minnesota are pleased to announce that their children, ROX-ANNE and ALBERT wish to begin their married life together with the Lord. Therefore they like to get married on Saturday, July 15, 1978 at 2:30 p.m. The ceremony will take place (the Lord willing) in the First Christian Reformed Church of Edgerton, Minnesota, U.S.A. Rev. Peter De Boer (Emeritus) officiating. Future address: 125 Maple Grove, Site 45, Bradford, Ont., Canada.

PYPERS-SCHIEDEL: Mr. & Mrs. Dick Pypers of Kitchener, Ont. are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, ANNETTE to PHIL SCHIEDEL, son of Mr. & Mrs. G. Scheidel of Cambridge, Ont. The ceremony will take place D.V. July 15, 1978 at 4:00 o'clock in the First Chr. Ref. Church, Kitchener, Ont. Rev. H. De Moor Jr. officiating. Future address: 98 Dixon, Apt. 17, Kitchener.

SCHALKWYK-VISSER: Praising the Lord who brought them together, Rev. & Mrs. Leonard T. Schalkwyk of Williamsburg, Ont., and Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Visser of Barrhead, Alta. announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, RITA and CALVIN. The ceremony will take place the Lord willing on Sunday, August 13, 1978 at 2:15 p.m. at the Christian Reformed Church of Neerlandia, Alta.

VAN AMERSFOORT-BLOK: Mr. & Mrs. C. Van Amersfoort of Blyth, Ont. and Mr. & Mrs. Garrelt Blok are happy to announce the marriage of their children, HILLIE VAN AMERSFOORT and MR. JOHN MANUEL BLOK on Friday, July 14, 1978 at 7:00 in the Blyth Christian Reformed Church, Ont. Rev. Ted Hoogsteen officiating. Reception following. Future address: R.R. #3 Blyth, Ont.

VELDHUISEN-DYKSTRA: Thankful to God, we are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of our children, MARGARET GERTRUDE and WILLARD. The ceremony will take place D.V. July 15, 1978 at 11 o'clock a.m. in the Christian Reformed Church in Emo, Ont. Mr. & Mrs. N. Veldhuisen, R.R. #2, Emo, Ont. and Mr. & Mrs. K. Dykstra, R.R. #3, Owen Sound, Ont.

Marriages

SLUYS-SHRIMER:
SLUYS-HELLINGA:
With great joy to God who is the Giver of Love, Rev. and Mrs. Peter Sluys announce the marriage of their daughter TINA to FRED SHRIMER, son of Mr. & Mrs. John Shrimmer of Grimsby, Ontario and their daughter KATHY to HECTOR HELLINGA, son of Mrs. Henry Hellinga of Fenwick, Ontario. The wedding will take place D.V. on Thursday, August 10, 1978 at 7 p.m. in the Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Lacombe, Alta., the Rev. Peter Sluys officiating.

STRONKS-HORLINGS: We, MARY-ANN STRONKS and JOHN HENRY HORLINGS wish to exchange our marriage vows in the presence of God, relatives and friends on Saturday, August the fifth, nineteen hundred and seventy-eight at seven o'clock p.m. in the Christian Reformed Church of Iron Springs, Alta. Rev. J. Tuininga officiating. Mary-Ann is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. G.H. Stronks of Iron Springs, Alta. and John, the son of Mrs. Lubbertus Horlings of Smithers, B.C.

VANDER VECHT-BAKKER: Mr. & Mrs. Homme Vander Vecht, Thamesford, Ontario and Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bakker, Winnipeg, Manitoba are happy to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, BETTY and BERNIE. The marriage will take place D.V. July 29, 1978 at 3:00 p.m. in the Winnipeg Christian Reformed Church. Rev. J. Van Dyk and Mr. Len Weaver officiating. Future address: 413 Winterton Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba. R2K 1K5.

VERSTEEG-REININK: Mr. & Mrs. Jake Versteeg of Clifford and Mr. & Mrs. Fred Reinink are happy to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, IRENA EDNA to ROBERT JASPER on Friday, July 28, 1978 D.V. at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian Reformed Church, Listowel. Rev. Henry v. Dyken officiating. Reception to follow at Howick Community Hall. Future address: R.R. #2, Clifford, Ont. N0G 1M0.

WESSELSON-ZOMER: Mr. & Mrs. Rolph Wesselson of Embro and Mr. & Mrs. Henk Zomer of Tillsonburg are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, GRACE and HENRY. The ceremony will take place D.V. July 22, 1978 at 11 a.m. at the Christian Reformed Church, Ingersoll, Ont. Rev. W.C. Veenstra officiating. Future address: R.R. #7, Tillsonburg, Ont.

ZWEEP-ZUIDERSMA: Mr. & Mrs. W. Zweep from Vineland and Mr. & Mrs. H. Zuidersma from Beamsville are happy to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, LINDA and JOHN, on Friday, July 21, at 6:30 p.m., D.V. in the Vineland Free Chr. Ref. Church. Rev. VanderMeyden officiating. Future address: R.R. #3, Beamsville, Ont. L0R 1B0.

Anniversaries

On July 15, 1978, the Lord willing we hope to celebrate with our parents and grandparents,

KLAAS (Clarence) DAM
and
GETJE (Grace) DAM
(nee Hansma)

their 35th Wedding Anniversary. As children and grandchildren we thank God for caring for them and pray for His continuing grace and guidance in the years yet to come. Pete & Lynn: Clarence, Angela, Peter and Edward
Jack & Evelyn: Stephanie, Clarence and Martin
Frank & Diane: Denise, Clarence
Hans & Hilda: Carolyn
Louie & Joanne
801 Canboro Rd., Fenwick, Ont. L0S 1C0.

Anniversaries

1933 1978
Kollummerpomp Hamilton
With joy and thankfulness to the Lord, we rejoice with our parents and grandparents,
SIEGER and WIETSKE DE GROOT
(nee LuLoss)

on their 45th Wedding Anniversary on July 22, 1978. Their Wedding text was Deut. 33: 27 "The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. And he thrust out the enemy before you, and said, Destroy." Their thankful children and grandchildren:
Richard & Alice Veenstra; Peter, Sidney, Annette
Henk & Ann De Groot; Steve, Wendy, Marlene, Irene
Clarence & Tina De Groot
Andy & Susan De Groot
Gary & Henny De Groot; Sarah Jane, Michael, Melissa
Keith & Ann Koens; Gregory, Corinna, Neil, Tammy
676 Rymal Rd. E., Hamilton, Ont. L8W 1B3

1953 June 27 1978
We are grateful to have celebrated the twenty-fifth Anniversary of our parents,

HENDRIK DE JONG
and
CORNELIA DE JONG
(nee Haagsma)

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." Psalm 23:6.
Thankful children,
Marianne & Richard — Burlington, Ontario.

The Lord willing on July 31, 1978 we hope to celebrate with our parents,

GERRY and SWANSEA FLUIT
(nee Steenbergen)

their 25th Wedding Anniversary. May God continue to bless and keep them in His care. Their thankful children and grandchildren.
Lou & Irene Fluit; Philip, Jacqueline — Hamilton
Marcia Fluit & Wayne De Jonge
Andy
Rob
25 Tecumseh St., St. Catharines, Ont. L2M 2M5 after July 21, our new address will be 39 Wakelin Terrace, St. Catharines, Ont. L2M 4K7.

Nieuwolda Edmonton
July 21, 1953 July 21, 1978
We are thankful that God has spared our parents,
RIENKO and GERTRUDE HAAN
(nee Zomerman)

so that they may celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary this month. They have always done their best for us, and we would like to say, "Thank you Mom and Dad!" Relatives and friends are invited to the Open House at Trinity Christian Reformed Church (135 avenue and 57 street) on July 14 at 8 p.m.
Arie & Cathy Jol; Rika
Annette Haan
Fred Haan
Elmer Haan
Laura Haan

Den Haag Carrying Place
1953 1978
We would like to express our deepest appreciation for all the christian love and discipline our parents,

JOHN and CORRIE MEIBOOM
(nee Vanderwerf)

have given us throughout our lives. They have been happily married for 25 years and the Lord has blessed them richly. Their anniversary was on the 11th of July. We pray that the Lord will keep and bless them many more years to come. Their thankful children:
John & Beth
Bob & Merilee (engaged)
Frank
Carol & Fred (engaged)

Anniversaries

Our 25th Wedding Anniversary, is on July 25, 1978.

If the Lord permits, we will celebrate this as a family. Friends too, are invited to join us.

South Windsor, CT., U.S.A.

Lenie & Enno Meijers-Roorda

Corinna, Enno, and Phyllis

Arnhem, Nederland;

Helena & Henk Top

Schipluiden, Nederland;

Hinke & Kees de Ruyter

Toronto, Canada

Gloria

31 Woodland Drive, South Windsor, CT. 06074.

On July 14, 1978, we celebrated with our parents and grandparents,

JOHAN and GEERTRUIDA

TE HENNEPE (nee Bussink)

the occasion of their 40th Wedding Anniversary. May the Lord bless you and keep you in His care. Your thankful children and grandchildren,

William & Martha; Maria, Trudy, Kimberley

Hendrika; Leona, Christopher

Hanni & John

Gerald & Sheila

Hans

Dorothy & Paul

Gary

Irene & Lorri; Dalsey

Home address: 6212 S.E. Marine Drive, Burnaby, B.C.

For 45 years, the Lord has sustained their life together in a marriage of faith, hope, and love. For 45 years, they have been blessed to be a blessing for their children and for the Christian community. It is therefore with thankfulness to our faithful God and Father that we hope to celebrate the 45th Wedding Anniversary of

HENK and NANCY

VAN BRUMMELEN (nee Rijkse)

on August 30, 1978, D.V. Their thankful children and grandchildren:

Louise & Mac VandenBrink; Lloyd, Monique — Kalamazoo, Mich.

Harro & Wilma Van Brummelen; Glen, Tim, Yolanda — Surrey, B.C.

Miki Van Brummelen — Calgary, Alta.

Home address: 1010-15 Street S.W., Calgary, Alta. T3C 1E6.

St. Catharines 1953 Oshawa 1978

With joy and thankfulness to the Lord we hope to celebrate with our parents,

DICK and ANNIE VOOYS

their 25th Wedding Anniversary on July 18th. We pray that God will continue to bless them in the years to come. Their children:

Tineke

John

Lydia

Open house will be held D.V. on Saturday, July 22, 1978 at the Holiday Inn, Bloor St. E., Oshawa, Ont. Best wishes only.

On Sunday, July 16, 1978 we hope to celebrate together with our parents their 25th Wedding Anniversary,

KLAZIENA WASSINK-VanHarten

and

EVERT JAN WASSINK

We thank the Lord for them and pray that He will continue to care for them and bless them in their life together,

Connie & Francis VanRooyen; Randall and Danielle

John

Diana and John Dreise

Margaret

Dick

Clarence

Otto

Evelyn

Arno

Open house will be held at their home, Sunday-evening, July 16th at 7:30 p.m. R.R. #6 Forest, Ont.

Anniversaries

1933 1978

The Lord willing on August 3, 1978 we will celebrate with our parents,

JAN VANDERWAL

and

BAUKJE VANDERWAL-Boonstra

their 45th Wedding Anniversary. "There be many that say, Who will show us any good? Lord, lift thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us." (Ps. 4:6)

Paul & Gertie Vanderwal — Beamsville, Ont.

Harry & Ann Voortman — Burlington, Ont.

Bill & Helen Vanderwal — Victoria, B.C.

Pat & Jane Elkin — Hamilton, Ont.

Neil & Barb Vanderwal — Hamilton, Ont.

Al & Sandra VanderMeulen — Burlington, Ont.

Harry & Mary Vanderwal — Tampa, Florida

Jake Vanderwal — Hamilton, Ont. and 26 grandchildren.

Open house will be held on Thursday evening, Aug. 3, from 7:30 to 9:30 in the 1st Christian Reformed Church of Hamilton. Best wishes only please. 227 Charlton Ave. W., Hamilton, Ont. L8P 2E3.

1953 1978

Middleton, N.S. Georgetown, Ont.

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!" We thank the Lord, that our parents,

ARIE and MARGARETHA

VAN HELDEN - nee Kroezen

may celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary, with their family and friends, on D.V. Thursday, August 3, 1978. We wish them many more happy years.

Rita & Hank Leferink; Jamie & Christopher

John & Joyce Klooster (engaged)

Alice

Margareth

Anthony

Timothy

Open House will be held on Saturday, August 5, from 2 to 5 o'clock at 64 Stevens Cres., Georgetown, Ont.

Harlingen Burlington

554 Dynes Rd.

"Behold the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His steadfast love." Ps. 33:18

The Lord willing on July 21, 1978 we will remember the 40th Wedding Anniversary of our dear parents,

FRED and TINA ZIETSMA

(Akker)

The family hopes to celebrate this occasion in Calgary where we will meet for the marriage of our brother, GEORGE HARRY ZIETSMA and MISS WILMA BORSJE. The wedding will take place on July 29, 1978 at the First Christian Reformed Church, Calgary, Alta., Revs. D.R. Tigchelaar and F.D. Breisch officiating.

Our love and thanks to you Mom and Dad:

Chuck & Val Zietsma; Mark, Charlene, Sandra, David — Newtonville, Ont.

Al & Gerda Zietsma; Christine, Bryan, Geraldine — Ancaster, Ont.

Mieka & Bert Vanden Akker; Kelly, Danny — St. Catharines, Ont.

Ida & Dan Tigchelaar; Robin, Danny, Heather — Pembroke, Ont.

George & Wilma — 1811-3500 Varsity Dr., Calgary, Alta.

Obituaries

From the Netherlands we heard that on Sunday, June 18, 1978, the Lord took home our beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather

JACOB BOUWKAMP,

at the age of 80. He is now with Jesus. His faith, often severely tried, has now changed to sight.

Peter & Anne Bouwkamp (Van Dam), children and grandchildren — Collingwood, Ont.

Sierd & Diane Woudstra, children — Grand Rapids, Mich. U.S.A.

In the Netherlands he is survived by our mother and grandmother, K. Bouwkamp-deBoer (Roden)

Eke Bouwkamp (Groningen)

Be & Betsie Vos and daughter (Groningen).

Our God took home into glory our dear husband and father,

ROLF KATS

Suddenly at His time and on His day at the age of 57. Our comfort is in Psalm 23:6.

R.R. #1 Cambridge, (G.), Ont. July 2, 1978.

Mart Kats Nymeyer

Brent Kats — at home

Brother and brother in law of:

Geertje en Willem de Jonge

Arend en Janny Kats

Henk en Henny Kats — Holland

Ben & Swany Nymeyer — Cambridge (G.)

George & Clare Nymeyer — Cocoa Beach, Fla.

John & Grace Nymeyer — Fenwick

Peter & Arlene Nymeyer — Cambridge (G.)

Jean & Harry Zomer — Welland

Len & Jean Nymeyer — Cambridge (G.)

Swany & John Zomer — Cambridge (G.)

Henk & Margaret Nymeyer — St. Thomas

Alice & Ray Mulzelaar — Jarvis

"My Times are in God's Hands" Ps. 31:15a.

At God's time Henry became a member of our family on Jan. 27, 1958; at God's time he confessed His Lord on Sunday, June 6, 1976; and at God's time Henry was taken away from us on Sunday, June 25, 1978, through a tragic car-mishap. His friend Neil Schalkwyk also died a day later as a result of the same accident. Both boys were on their way to church when their Lord called them home suddenly. Henry has been a source of much joy in our family of seven, and we will miss him a lot. His funeral was an occasion of much praise and glory to the Lord.

HENRY JAMES KOOISTRA

age 20.

Beloved son of James & Alice Kooistra

Dear brother of: Bill, Wilma, Trudy and Milton

We like to thank all of our friends and fellow Christians for the many cards, and for the prayers on our behalf during these past trying weeks. R.R. #1, Williamsburg, Ont. K0C 2H0.

On Sunday evening, June 25, 1978, the Lord suddenly took unto Himself through a tragic car accident, our dearly beloved grandson, nephew and cousin,

HENRY JAMES KOOISTRA

at the age of 20 years. Isaiah 57:1,2a "The good men perish; the godly die before their time and no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to realize that God is taking them away from evil days ahead. For the godly who die, shall rest in peace."

Mr. & Mrs. H. Kooistra — Drachten, Holland

Rinze & Boukje Kooistra; Henry, Rudy, Freddy — Drachten, Holland

Sid & Clara Kooistra; Henry, Grace, Eddy, Teresa, Marilyn, Richard — Holland Marsh, Ont.

Obituaries

Williamsburg, Ont.

Sorrow and grief struck again on Sunday afternoon, June 25, 1978. We extend feelings of Christian love and sympathy to the families of J. Kooistra and L. Schalkwijk in the sudden bereavement of their 20 year old sons,

HENRY KOOISTRA

and

NEIL SCHALKWIJK

We commend these families to the tender care of the Father of all comfort. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to his purpose. Rom. 8: 28. The Timothy Christian School Society.

God is so good

He is so good to me

I love Him so

He is so good to me

For twenty years the Lord gave us to love, enjoy and train for Him, His child, our dear son and brother,

NEIL SCHALKWYK

Together with his friends, Henry Kooistra and Fred Geurkink he now serves Jesus in perfection.

Leonard & Ann Schalkwyk

Rita & Calvin Visser (eng.)

Len

John

Cathie

Williamsburg, Ont., June 26, 1978

The consistory and congregation of the CRC of Williamsburg, Ont. extends its feelings of christian love and sympathy to the families of Rev. L.T. Schalkwyk and James Kooistra as we, with them, sorrow in the loss of their children,

NEIL SCHALKWYK

and

HENRY KOOISTRA

both at the age of 20, in an automobile accident on June 25, 1978. May the God of all strength and comfort be very near unto them in these difficult days.

John 10: 27-29. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of the Father's hand."

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelations 21:4

With these words we commend our beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister and cousin,

RITA POORTINGA

(nee Van Brakel)

who suddenly was taken home at the age of 46, to the care of her Heavenly Father.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.

Beloved wife of:

Mr. Egbert Poortinga — Burlington, Ont.

Beloved mother of:

Nelly Poortinga — Waterdown, Ont.

Mary Cook — Burlington, Ont.

Debbie Poortinga — at home

Edward Poortinga — at home

Ingrid Poortinga — at home

Peter Poortinga — at home

Beloved daughter of:

Mrs. Nelly van Brakel & the late Mr. Peter van Brakel — St. Catharines, Ont.

Beloved sister of:

Kor & Joop van Brakel — St. Catharines, Ont.

Nelly & Sidney Miedema — Jordan Station, Ont.

Magda & Herman Jonker — Port Moody, B.C.

Peter van Brakel — Ottawa, Ont.

Beloved cousin of:

Annie & Pete van Putten — Burlington, Ont.

and also 12 nieces and nephews.

June 26, 1978

5233 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ont.

Obituaries

On Monday, June 26, 1978 it pleased the Lord to take unto Himself suddenly, our dear daughter-in-law, sister-in-law and aunt,

RIET POORTINGA

(nee Van Brakel)

at the age of 47. Beloved wife of Egbert Poortinga, Burlington.

Mr. & Mrs. P. Poortinga — Jarvis

Andy & Rose Poortinga — Woodstock

Kathy Oussoren — St. Catharines

Pier & Anna Poortinga — Niagara Falls

Henk & Joanne Poortinga — St. Catharines

Chris & Nancy Poortinga — Jarvis

Patricia Poortinga — Jarvis

nieces and nephews.

May the Lord be with Egbert and the children in their loss. Please Lord guide them in your ways, is our prayer for them.

Op 22 juni behaagde het de Here tot zich te nemen in zijn Hemelse heerlijkheid, onze zeer geliefde vrouw, moeder en grootmoeder.

ANTJE POSTMA-Fokkens

Op de leeftijd van ruim 65 jaar. Psalm 23.

Geliefde vrouw van Johannes Postma

Haar kinderen:

Henry en Muriel Postma — Brighton, Ont.

Tim en Dorothy Kuipers — Trenton, Ont.

John en Lee Postma — Trenton, Ont.

Tom en Carol Postma — Frankford, Ont.

James en Gerdie Postma — Brighton, Ont.

Klaas en Evelyn Rinsma — Thunder Bay, Ont.

Dale en Barbara Horsley — Trenton, Ont.

en 20 kleinkinderen.

De begrafenis heeft plaats gehad op 24 juni van uit de Chr. Ref. Church, Trenton, Ont.

God gives his people peace. When sorrow fills us to the brim and courage grows dim, He lays to rest our restlessness in Him. God gives his people love.

Suddenly on June 29, our heavenly Father took unto himself,

GEERT JAN WYNIA, JR.

age 29. Dearly beloved husband of Patricia Lee Paly of Ottawa, Ont.

Dearly beloved son of,

Mr. & Mrs. Geert Jan Wynia, Sr. of Bloomfield, Ont.

Brother, Brother-in-law and uncle of:

Susan & Henk Holtvliwer and children

Jan & Margaret Wynia and children

Wilma & Bill Schepers & children

Thys & Grace Wynia

Callie & Bill Hofsink and children

Cor & Ingrid Wynia and Carmen

Lettie & John Hogeveen and Miranda


945 Richmond Rd., #310, Ottawa, Ont. K2B 8B9.

Mark 10: 14b "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the Kingdom of God."

On June 26, 1978 the Lord took unto Himself our much loved, granddaughter, niece and cousin,

JODIE ANNETTE DE VRIES

in her fifth year. Dear daughter of Andy and Siska De Vries; and dear sister of Christopher. Funeral service was held, Saturday, July 1, 1978 at the First Christian Reformed Church, St. Thomas, with Rev. Gordon Mouw and Mr. Dirk Miedema officiating. Home address: 72 Coulter Ave., St. Thomas, Ont.



Classified Advertising

Obituaries

As Consistory of the Christian Reformed Church of Exeter, Ont. we express our Christian sympathies to deacon Co Zondag, who since June 24, 1978, mourns the death of his mother.

MRS. WILHELMINA ZONDAG

beloved wife of Mr. Roelof Zondag, a former deacon of this church. "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Psalm 73: 26.

Rev. C. Bishop, president
Mr. L. Kodde, clerk

Personal

Wanted to share apartment with girl in the area of George Brown College, Toronto, Ont. Needed for the middle of July. Contact: Shirley Verhulp, R.R. #1, Atwood, Ont. N0G 1B0. Telephone: 519-356-2467.

Would like to meet friendly, sincere christian gentleman. I am a 49 year old lady. No dependants. Please reply in Dutch or English to Box #4311, 99 Niagara St., St.Catharines, Ont. L2R 4L3.

Man, 82, seeking housekeeper to live in a small Ontario town. Please reply to box #4310, Calvinist Contact, 99 Niagara St., St.Catharines, Ont. L2R 4L3.

Working girl in early 20's looking for someone to share a 2 bedroom apartment, in East Hamilton; close to downtown and the major bus routes. Located on 3rd Floor of house. If interested call 416-545-0210, after 5:00 p.m. or on week-ends.

Lady in her late 40's would like to correspond with an intelligent and well read man. I have a wide scope of interests, am well read, educated and enjoy good company. Please reply in confidence to: Box #4312, Calvinist Contact, 99 Niagara St., St.Catharines, Ont. L2R 4L3.

Girl, 19, looking for small apartment or room and board in Sheridan College, Brampton area, preferably within 2 miles from campus. Contact Hetty Hopman, R.R. #9, Dunnville, Ont. N1A 2W8. (416) 774-3080.

Announcements

WILLIAM C. KORT

is pleased to announce that he is now associated in the practice of law with the firms of Dodokin Fotinka and McCloy, Barristers and Solicitors, 145 Mill St., Georgetown, Ont. L7G 2C2.

Employ Wanted

Girl, 18, seeks steady employment by September as a Mother's helper. Has experience as Mother's helper and has done volunteer work in day nursery. Preferably in London area. Please reply to Box #4308, Calvinist Contact, 99 Niagara St., St.Catharines, Ont. L2R 4L3.

Girl 19, wishes to seek employment in a Christian home as a live-in babysitter. 3 years experience. Available Sept. 1, 1978. May call evenings or weekends at 722-6848 or write Ann Schuurmans, 1204 Emperor Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1Z 8C2.

18 year old looking for a full time job. I would like to work in a delicatessen or Dutch Import Store. I have experience in serving customers and part-time cashier. I am looking for a job in Southwestern Ontario. Call 519-839-4136.

Advertise with us
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Pulpit Supply

DRAYTON: The congregation of Drayton, located in Midwestern Ontario, is in need of a pastor. Pastors who feel inclined to serve a large rural congregation which has been vacant since September, 1977 please direct their inquiries to: The Drayton Christian Reformed Church, Secretary, Calling Committee, Box 47, Drayton, Ontario, N0G 1P0. Phone 519-638-3064.

SIMCOE: Pulpit supply required for August 20, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. services in the Christian Reformed Church of Simcoe. Any minister able to preach for us that Sunday please contact, John Bokma (clerk), R.R. #2, Port Dover, 1-519-426-1834.

DRAYTON: Due to unforeseen circumstances, Calvin Christian School in Drayton is in need of a part-time teacher for 4 days a week for the 1978-79 school year. Secretarial work is also available if desired. For further information, please contact: Tom Bergsma at 519-638-2973, or write, Calvin Christian School, Box 141, Drayton, Ont. N0G 1P0.

SARNIA: SARNIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL still needs a part-time french teacher. Please send inquiries to: Gary Duthier (Princ.), Sarnia Chr. School, 1273 Exmouth St., Sarnia, Ont. N7S 1W9 or phone (519) 344-4562 (school) or (519) 344-9794 (res.).

SMITHERS: To split a combined classroom, Smithers Christian School needs a primary teacher for the coming school year. Contact J. Bandstra, Box 2299, Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0 or phone: 604-847-2395.

Pulpit Supply

BLYTH: The Blyth Chr. Ref. Church needs pulpit supply on July 23 and 30, August 6 and 13. Ministers willing to preach please contact, Martin Wilts, R.R. # Auburn, Ont. N0M 1E0. Tel. 519-523-4344.

Ministers

The Rev. John D. Pereboom, having completed a two year leave of absence to continue his studies, has been declared eligible for call by the Council of the Trinity CRC of Edmonton, Alberta and is recommended to the churches for service as a minister of the Word and Sacrament. His address is: 3915-132 Ave., Edmonton, Alta. T5A 3E6.

Teachers Needed

CALGARY: Calgary Christian School is in need of a high school teacher in the business area for Sept. 1978. Please forward application and resume to Mr. G. Veen, principal. Phone 242-2896 or write: Calgary Christian School, 2839-49th St. S.W., Calgary, Alta. T3E 3X9.

WINNIPEG, MAN.: The Greater Winnipeg Society for Christian Education operating Calvin Christian School invites applications for a **Teaching Principal** for the 1978-79 school term. Calvin Christian School has a low student-teacher ratio with students in grades 1 through 9. Some time for administrative duties is allotted during school hours. Please direct inquiries, application and resume to: Box 44, Station F, Winnipeg, Man. R2L 2A5 or phone Mrs. Bakker at 204-667-5851 or Mr. H. Faber at 204-338-3553.

Chilliwack, B.C.

TEACHING PRINCIPAL NEEDED

Due to illness our principal has asked to be released of his contract. Chilliwack Christian School is in need of a teaching principal for the 1978-79 term. Please send letter of application with resume to:

Y. Ypma (secr.)
46599 Montana Dr.,
Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 6L9

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Vacancies still available in August.

R.S. Bakema
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Help Wanted

Growers

2 experienced Assistant Growers needed in St.Catharines area. Send resume with full particulars to Box #4313, Calvinist Contact, 99 Niagara St., St.Catharines, Ont.

1st Christian Reformed Church of London, Ont. is looking for a **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC (part time)** for further information write to: Mr. John VanderMark, 10 Rockingham Crt., London, Ont. N6C 4L8 or phone (519) 681-7201.

Help Wanted

Required by September 1st, 1978, experienced, married, herdman for modern 100 registered cow/dairy operation in choice southern Alberta location. A.I. experience an asset.

Modern 3 bedroom home available. Above average wages and benefits in return for above average care.

Please apply to Box #4314, Calvinist Contact, 99 Niagara St., St.Catharines, Ont. L2R 4L3.

NEEDED

Required immediately a full time **Executive Secretary** for Youth Evangelism Services, stationed in the Toronto area. Qualifications: possess all basic secretarial skills; able to manage an office; be effective in written communication; able to work independently. Written applications with resume to be sent to

YES (personel)
1008 Bathurst Street
Toronto, Ontario

Administrative Assistant

Position involves administrative/managerial and clerical/secretarial responsibilities. College or university education essential; someone who wants career within an academic setting. Must be able to assume responsibility and work independently. Contact Harry Vander Velde at

Institute for Christian Studies
229 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R4
(416) 979-2331

In beautiful Barrie we are looking for a Director of education and evangelism. He shall be responsible for the ministry of the Church in education, youth work and evangelism. Interested person should reply to:

First Christian Reformed Church
P.O. Box 875
Barrie, Ont.
L4M 4Y2

Real Estate

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Dairy Farms in Southern Ontario

298 acres dairy farm, light soil. 120 cows and young cattle. #1 plus 2 milk quota. All machinery good. Highway location.

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evenings 774-4611

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Rooke Real Estate Ltd., Realtor
Dunnville 774-7624
evenings: 774-4077

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Misc.

Toronto—Scarborough. Free room and board for college student willing to do some housework and babysitting. Start Sept. or Oct. Bed-sitting room and private wash-room. Apply to box #4309, Calvinist Contact, 99 Niagara St., St.Catharines, L2R 4L3.

For Sale

Organ for church or home in like new condition, Hammond RT3 concert model. 32 note radiating A.G.O. specification pedal board. Two 61 note manuals 79 tabs/stops etc. including two 32' stops on pedal. One separate 40 watt Hammond P.R. 40 tone cabinet. One 30 watt Revo with 2 separate speakers. L. Van Geest
416-689-6833
Waterdown, Ontario

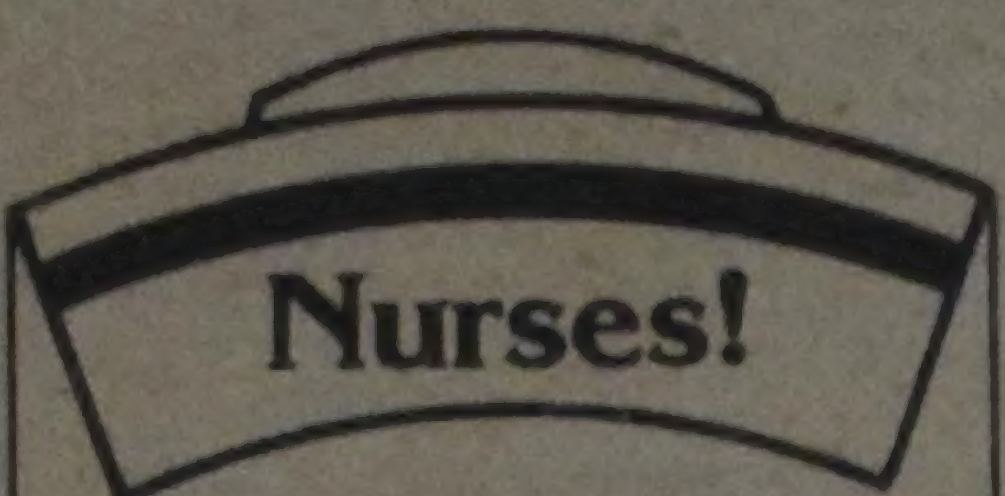
For Rent

House for rent

Toronto west, near Highway #401 & 427. Attractive semi-detached, 4 bedroom, 1½ bathroom, fenced in backyard. Available Sept. 1, 1978. \$400 a month. Call 416-621-5470.

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For rent: mobile home 54 x 12', 2 bedrooms, only adults, in Belle-view, close to SilverSpring. 5 min. from Church, stores, etc. 1 Oct. to 1 Feb. Please contact: C.A. Denher-tog, 26 Liberty St. (S.), Bowman-ville, Ont. or phone 416-623-9240.



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St. Catharines

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LET'S PLAY CHESS

editor: Pete Layer

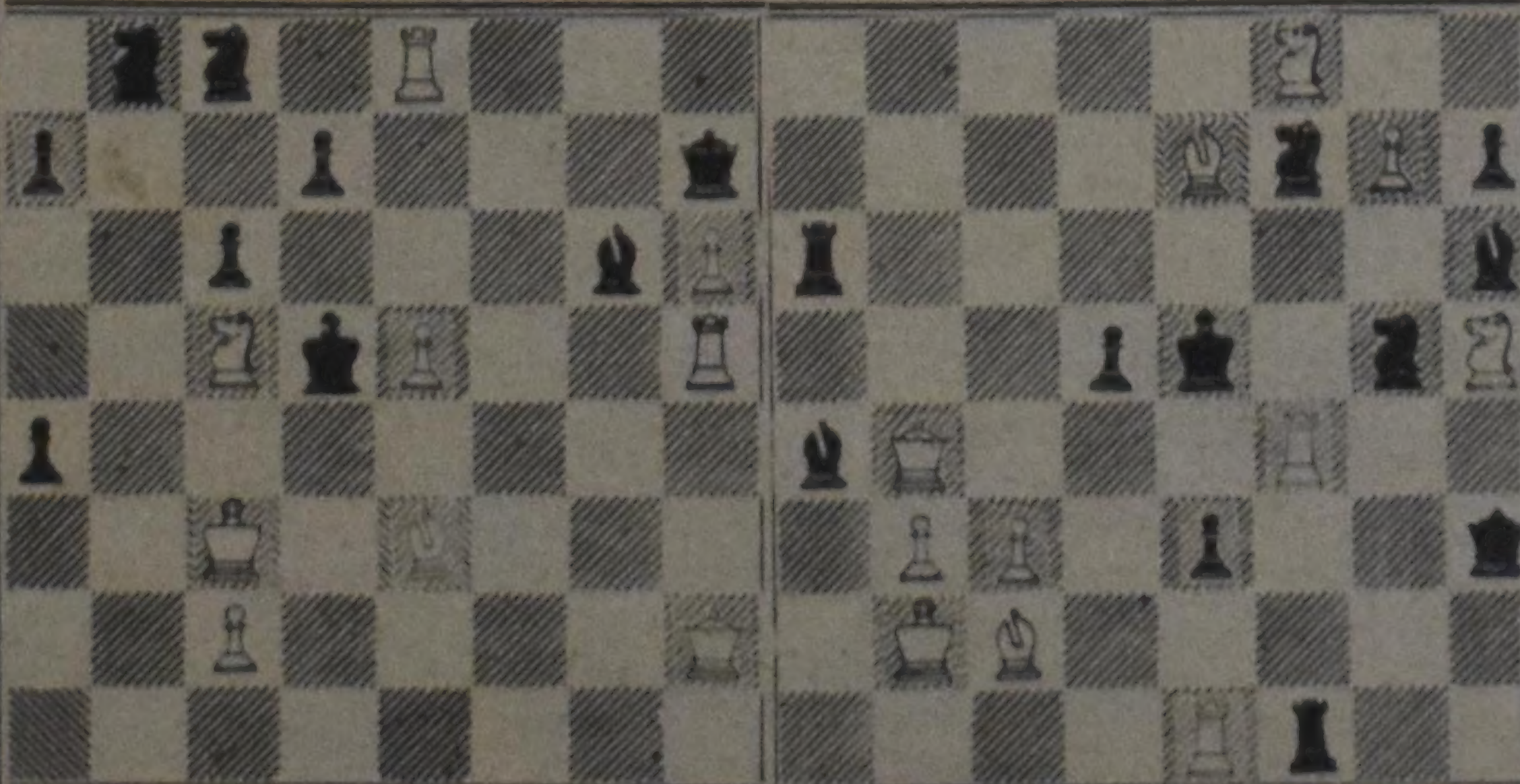
FIRST SERIES OF PROBLEMS IN THE SUMMER

#751

#752

J. J. Ebben
Holland, 1947
9

U. Ring
Germany, 1960
11



9

11

3-mover

3 pts

2-mover

2 pts

Notes:

- Neither problem is very involved since they both concentrate on only one idea. The three-mover, #751, is probably the more difficult one. Black has control over all the important White squares, so that White must plan his attack elsewhere. Enjoy the few variations this problem offers. Please indicate the key, threat and all variations.
- Mr. Ring wants to show why one move works for White and why another quite similar one does not. Therefore, there are a few pieces on the board which are not used in the official solution. Please give the key and threat if any, for the two-mover.
- The deadline for sending the solutions for these problems will be Sept. 20, 1978. This is done so that you are able to solve them whenever you wish. Clip these out and take them along, or better yet, take the whole Calvinist Contact with you. Have a good and safe vacation.

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Insurances you may not need,
AD and D

Accidental Death and Dismemberment is referred to as AD and D. Usually a person can double his term insurance for about a 50% increase in premium by taking an AD and D addition. Sometimes it can also be attached to other policies. What this means is that the insurance company will pay double the amount of insurance in case of accidental death. The question to be asked is: "is the basic amount of the insurance policy adequate to protect those whom you are protecting?" If the answer is "yes", why pay more money for protection that you don't need? If the answer is "no" and you say that doubling the amount is closer to what you need, you should not have the AD and D.

There are many other ways of dying beside accidental death. Your dependents, your family would be left unprotected in case of death through heart attack, stroke or any illness, medical operation, etc. If you need the financial protection, buy real protection.

Travel insurance is similar to the above. It can be bought as a separate policy, and is really term insurance in case of death due to travelling. Some companies buy it for sales persons and executives who travel much. The same questions arise here. Are the dependents protected if the person dies at home, while not travelling? If "yes" you're double insuring, an unnecessary expense. If "no" shape up your 24 hr. a day, all circumstances regular term insurance so that it is adequate.

One of the specialized travel insurance policies is flight insurance, sold at all airports. The same comments apply, and I recommend against it.

The annual insurance premiums can be insured against disability. This means that if you as premium payer are unable to work because of a lengthy illness or severe accident, the premium for that time period (that time period only) will not have to be paid by you, but will be paid from the extra dollars collected. Although it's often only 3% to 5% of the policy premium per year, it is insurance on insurance and probably should not be taken.

Finally, a person without dependents, without financial responsibility to others in case of his or her death, should consider having no life insurance at all. Such persons will probably be quite aware of their own future needs in terms of pensions, retirement income, etc., but should shop carefully for good investment plans, rather than insurance plans.



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Next time:

Money in Insurance policies for you!

Calendar of Events

Male Choir from Hardenberg and Vroomshoop, Holland, under direction of Aile Roodbergen. July 26, Strathroy, United Church, 8 p.m. July 27, Woodstock, Central United Church, 8 p.m., July 28, Goderich, Knox Presbyterian Church, 8 p.m.

Aug. 4-7 "Living in a kingdom coming". AACs Niagara Conference at Fort Erie, Ont. Speakers are George Vandervelde, Calvin Seerveld, Gordon Spykman, James Skillen, Peter Steen, concert by James Ward on Saturday evening.

Sept. 9 Annual Youth Evangelism Services (YES) conference, Brantford, Ont. CRC, 9 a.m. Registration forms available from YES office, 1008 Bathurst St., Toronto, M5R 3G7.

October Dutch organist Klaas Jan Mulder will give concerts in Kitchener, Hamilton, St.Catharines, Toronto, Bowmanville, Ottawa, Chatham, and London, Ont.

Dated	Mailed	Deadline for classified ads	Deadline for all other advertising
July 21	July 19	July 17 (noon)	July 24 (noon)
August 4	August 2	July 31 (noon)	July 28 (noon)
August 11	August 9	August 7 (noon)	August 4 (noon)

Books

Autobiography of a South African Photographer

Magubane's South Africa by Peter Magubane; published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1978 and in Canada by Random House of Canada Ltd., Toronto, Ont. Reviewed by Harry A. de Vries.

Peter Magubane was born a black in an Indian area just west of Johannesburg in 1932 and grew up as a pass-carrying non-white in Sophiatown, another suburb of Johannesburg. He attended a Lutheran elementary school and went part-way through high school, but left it to begin his career as a photographer with the well-known magazine *Drum*.

Magubane's realization of his colour and its social implications were made very clear to him in his family's treatment by the white officials and government regulations. His father, a vegetable peddler, was often assaulted and mistreated by the police and frequently spent time in jail for "assaulting" the police, whether or not he had been the instigator of violence. The last time his father was jailed he ended up in Baragwanath Hospital where Magubane saw him on his death-bed. "This experience," he writes, "left an incredibly open wound in me. The shock was too

whites of his native country too envision a South Africa where "everyone in the country should share the table and try to solve ... problems amicably, with no bloodshed." And he himself believes "that there is still plenty of room for that." But under the present conditions, "As long as the government is not prepared to recognize the black man as a citizen and gives him his full rights in the country of his birth he can see no change except for the worse. Yet, the black man does not want to drive the white man into the ocean. White and black should share the fruits of the country equally and together." A noble aim, especially after the suffering this man has gone through at the hands of a white government.

Peter Magubane is a black South African. What that has meant to him and his profession is related in **Magubane's South Africa**. Whether the story is totally one-sided is not possible to say. But his brief autobiographical account and his portfolio of 125 black and white photographs are stunning, to say in the least. Andrew Young, an American black, who happens to be the USA ambassador to the UN sympa-



A woman is submerged in the Jukskei River during Zion Catholic Church Mission baptism ceremonies.

thizes with Magubane and decries the inhumanity of apartheid and some of its terrifying results in his introduction to the book. The facts related here cannot simply be pushed under the rug of "error" it seems to me.

As a photographer Magubane is an artist, and it is perhaps to a large extent because of his effective photography that he has been so mistreated. The editor of the newspapers which employed him sent him into the midst of "the action" to take shots of the real events so they could be presented to the public. The photographs published in this book are his best of his past twenty years of work. There are not many pictures that show blacks and whites working harmoniously together as some of the government publications do; but then the nature of his work and his environment differs from the purpose of government releases. But the photos are good. Magubane has an "eye" for good shots. These pictures have captured life: the excitement of demonstrations, the live terror of confrontation between police and blacks, the agony of death and grief, the revolting effects of under-nourishment, the emotion of river baptisms, the joy of

children at play, and the harsh reality of some of the black living conditions and the cruelty found in the uprooting black and coloured homes for urban renewal and involuntary population movement. But above all the pictures evoke feelings, human feelings. You cannot look at them without being touched in one way or another. But hatred? No they oddly enough do not evoke a hatred that Mr. Magubane might well have developed as a result of the difficulties he has personally faced.

This is a soft-cover book but it is of quality coated paper and its large size, 9" x 12", accommodates well the 125 black-and-white photographs. The choice of pictures is varied, they are sometimes page size, sometimes smaller. Some of them are printed in sequence to give a film effect, others are placed in contrast to each other and yet others are grouped to provide different views of the same scene.

This is a book that needs to be placed along other books about Africa as a source of inside information. And, at the same time it is a collection of photos that deserves to be examined for its excellent photographs.

Issues in the Chr. Reformed Church

The Christian Reformed Church: Who and Why are We? by Peter Y. De Jong; published by Reformed Fellowship, Grand Rapids, 1977; 72 pages. Reviewed by Rev. John Bolt.

In view of the increased concern and interest in adult education in the Christian Reformed Church, we welcome the printing of this revision of Dr. De Jong's study guide on the C.R.C. In 26 lessons, with discussion questions following each lesson, the distinctive history, theology, church polity, and practice of the Christian Reformed Church are briefly but comprehensively surveyed. Included are discussions on worship, missions, Christian education, Christian political and labour organizations, and ecumenical relations with other churches.

A weakness of this booklet, in my judgement, is the fact that many of the discussion questions already presume a fairly good knowledge of issues, facts and synodical decisions of the C.R.C. such as: references to the "three points of 1924," "quotas," Report 44; the distinction between "sister churches," "corresponding churches" and "churches in ecclesiastical fellowship;" the significance of the RES, etc. Some questions also demand too much from users of the study guide (e.g. proof from Scripture whether the CRC should or should not join the National and World Council of Churches). This seriously limits the usefulness of this booklet as an introduction of the C.R.C. to new members or inquirers.

Nevertheless societies and study groups, with the aid of a good leader, could profit considerably from a year spent in discussion of the issues dealt with in this booklet. It can be ordered from Reformed Fellowship, P.O. Box 7883, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49510.



The boys above lost their mother in a car crash on Christmas Day in 1975. The one boy was hard, he really wouldn't shed a tear.

great." Later on a very good friend, who had left South Africa (S.A.) without papers and was not allowed to return, committed suicide because of his disposition. "His death was a shock to me," writes Magubane.

Magubane himself was imprisoned lengthy periods of time. He spent a total of "587 days in solitary confinement, six months in ordinary jail and five years as a ghost" because he was a "banned" person for five years, and all that without ever being convicted of any crime. Legally the government can imprison anyone for up to a period of 180 days without laying charges. At one time he was made to stand in one spot for five days and five nights. When he finally began to urinate blood he was put into a cell where he could lay down. I have read some of Solzhenitsyn's books and was astounded by such treatment in some of the Russian labor camps, but I was even more shocked to read about it happening in South Africa.

But even after his harsh treatment by the police of S.A., Mr. Magubane does not seem to revel in hatred for whites. He realizes from working with them at the *Rand Daily Mail*, a prominent S.A. newspaper, that many

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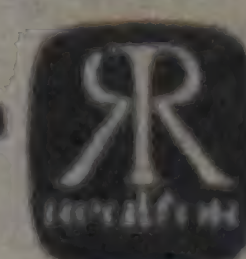
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